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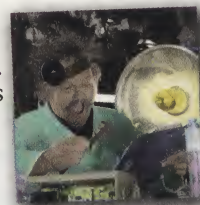
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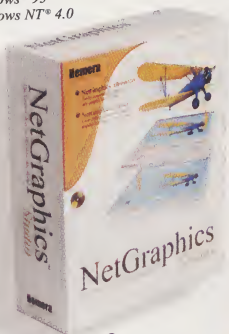
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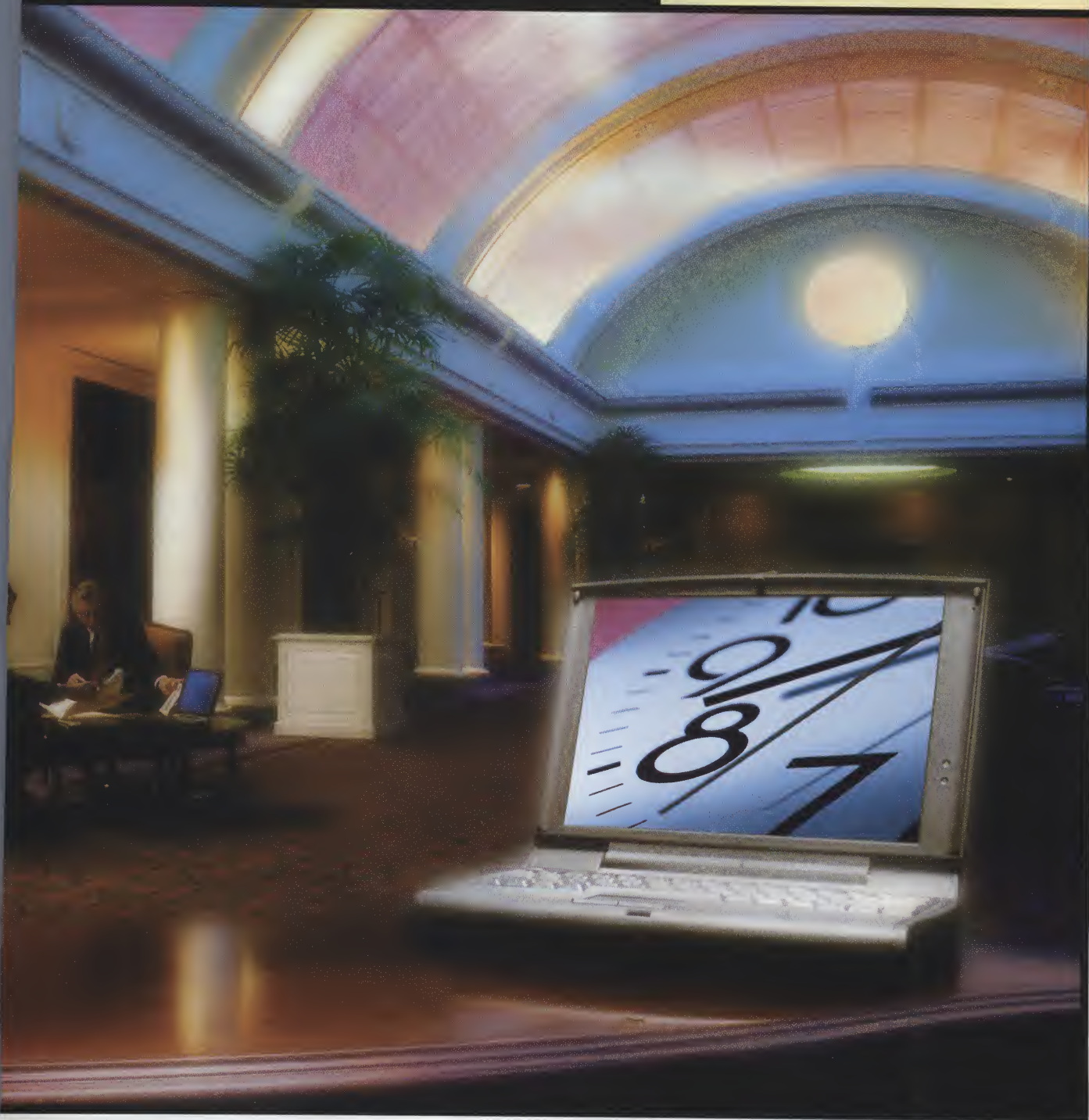
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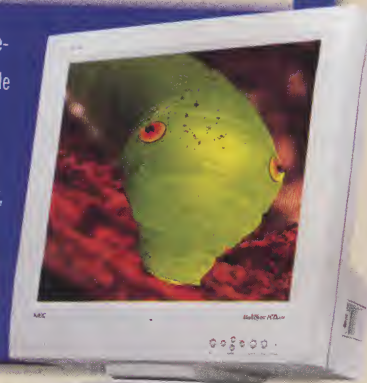
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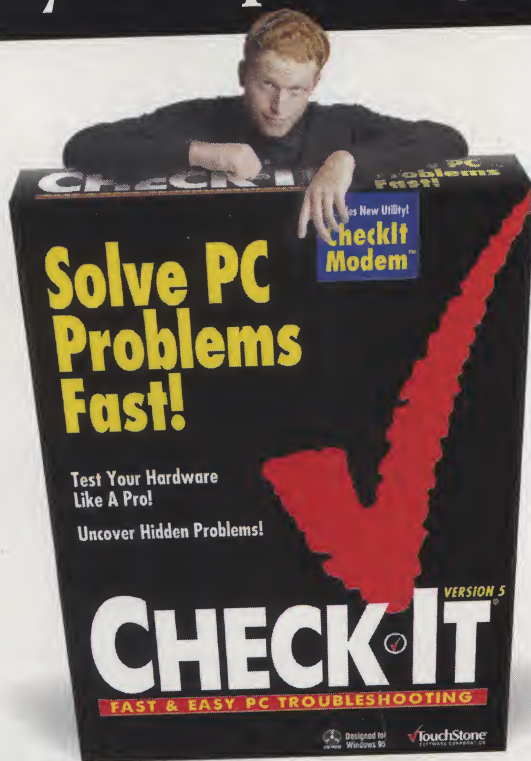
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Brightness	200 cd/m²	180 cd/m²	150 cd/m²
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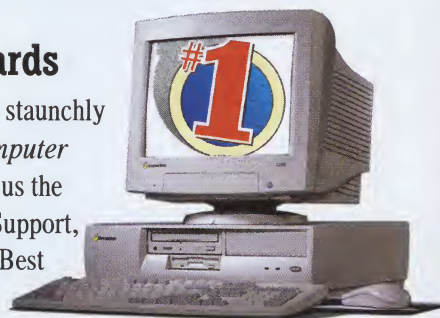
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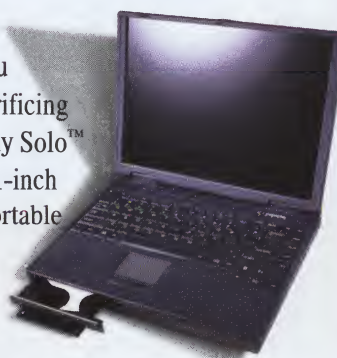
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- Intel® 233MHz Pentium® II Processor with 512K ECC Cache
- SMP-Compliant (Dual-Processor Ready) Supporting Up To Two Pentium II Processors (upgradable to 266MHz, 300MHz & 333MHz)
- 32MB EDO Memory (expandable to 512MB)
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- 256K Pipelined Burst Cache
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- Integrated PCI Video with 2MB DRAM
- 2GB 11ms Ultra ATA Hard Drive
- 13X min/32X max CD-ROM Drive & 3.5" Diskette Drive
- Integrated 16-Bit Business Audio
- Integrated 10/100 Ethernet Twisted Pair Adapter
- Low Profile Desktop Case
- 104+ Keyboard & Mouse
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- Integrated Ultra Wide SCSI-3 Controller
- 12X SCSI CD-ROM Drive & 3.5" Diskette Drive
- 3Com 10/100 Twisted Pair Ethernet Adapter
- Four 32-Bit PCI, One EISA, Two PCI/EISA Slots
- 4 DIMM Slots
- EV500 .28 Screen Pitch 15" Monitor (13.9" viewable)
- Integrated 32-Bit PCI Graphics with 2MB DRAM
- 13-Bay NS-8000 Server Tower Case with 325-Watt Power Supply, Includes seven External Bays (five 5.25" and two 3.5") and six 3.5" SCA Drive Bays (requires SCA drives)
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- 8MB 3-D AGP Graphics
- 2GB 11ms Ultra ATA Hard Drive
- 13X min/32X max CD-ROM Drive
- 3.5" Diskette Drive
- GP-Series Mid-Tower Case
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Gateway GP6-233, PC World Power Desktop, October 1997

GP6-300

- Intel 300MHz Pentium II Processor with 512K Cache
- 64MB SDRAM
- EV700 .28 Screen Pitch 17" Monitor (15.9" viewable)
- 8MB 3-D AGP Graphics
- 8.4GB 8.5ms Ultra ATA Hard Drive
- 13X min/32X max CD-ROM Drive
- 3.5" Diskette Drive
- GP-Series Mid-Tower Case
- 104* Keyboard & MS IntelliMouse
- MS Windows NT® 4.0 & MS Office 97, Small Business Edition plus Bookshelf 98
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GP6-266

- Intel 266MHz Pentium II Processor with 512K Cache
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- EV700 .28 Screen Pitch 17" Monitor (15.9" viewable)
- 8MB 3-D AGP Graphics
- 4GB 11ms Ultra ATA Hard Drive
- 13X min/32X max CD-ROM Drive
- 3.5" Diskette Drive
- GP-Series Mid-Tower Case
- 104* Keyboard & MS IntelliMouse
- MS Windows 95 & MS Office 97, Small Business Edition plus Bookshelf 98
- Gateway Gold Service & Support for GP-Series PCs

\$1999 Gateway GoldValue Lease† \$70/mo.

GP6-333 BEST BUY

- Intel 333MHz Pentium II Processor with 512K Cache
- 64MB SDRAM
- EV900 .26 Screen Pitch 19" Monitor (18" viewable)
- 8MB 3-D AGP Graphics
- 8.4GB 8.5ms Ultra ATA Hard Drive
- 13X min/32X max CD-ROM Drive
- 3.5" Diskette Drive
- GP-Series Mid-Tower Case
- 104* Keyboard & MS IntelliMouse
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- ▶ **nVidia 4MB 3-D AGP Graphics**
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- Ensoniq Wavetable Audio
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- MS® Windows 95
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G6-300

- Intel 300MHz Pentium II Processor with 512K Cache
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- 13X min/32X max CD-ROM Drive
- 3.5" Diskette Drive
- Ensoniq Wavetable Audio
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G6-333

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- 8.4GB 8.5ms Ultra ATA Hard Drive
- 13X min/32X max CD-ROM Drive
- 3.5" Diskette Drive
- Ensoniq Wavetable Audio
- Boston Acoustics MicroMedia 3-Piece Speaker System
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- 4GB 11ms Ultra ATA Hard Drive
- 13X min/32X max CD-ROM Drive
- 3.5" Diskette Drive
- Ensoniq® Wavetable Audio
- Boston Acoustics® MicroMedia™ 3-Piece Speaker System
- TelePath® Modem for Windows, with x2™ Technology
- G-Series Mid-Tower Case
- MultiFunction Keyboard & Mouse
- Microsoft® Windows® 95
- ▶ Microsoft Home Essentials Software
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- 8MB 3-D AGP Graphics
- 8.4GB 8.5ms Ultra ATA Hard Drive
- 13X min/32X max CD-ROM Drive
- 3.5" Diskette Drive
- GP-Series Mid-Tower Case
- 104* Keyboard & MS® IntelliMouse
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- 3.5" Diskette Drive
- Ensoniq Wavetable Audio
- ▶ Boston Acoustics® MicroMedia™ 3-Piece Speaker System
- TelePath Modem for Windows, with x2 Technology
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- Microsoft SideWinder[™] Force Feedback Pro Joystick & Enthusiast Pack Software — Tigershark[™]: 2060 A.D.; MDK: Mission Laguna Beach[™] and Interstate 76 (Contains mature language.) \$139
- Visioneer[®] PaperPort[®] 3000 Color Scanner \$149 (\$50 rebate offer available.)
- Visioneer PaperPort Strobe Serial Color Scanner \$199
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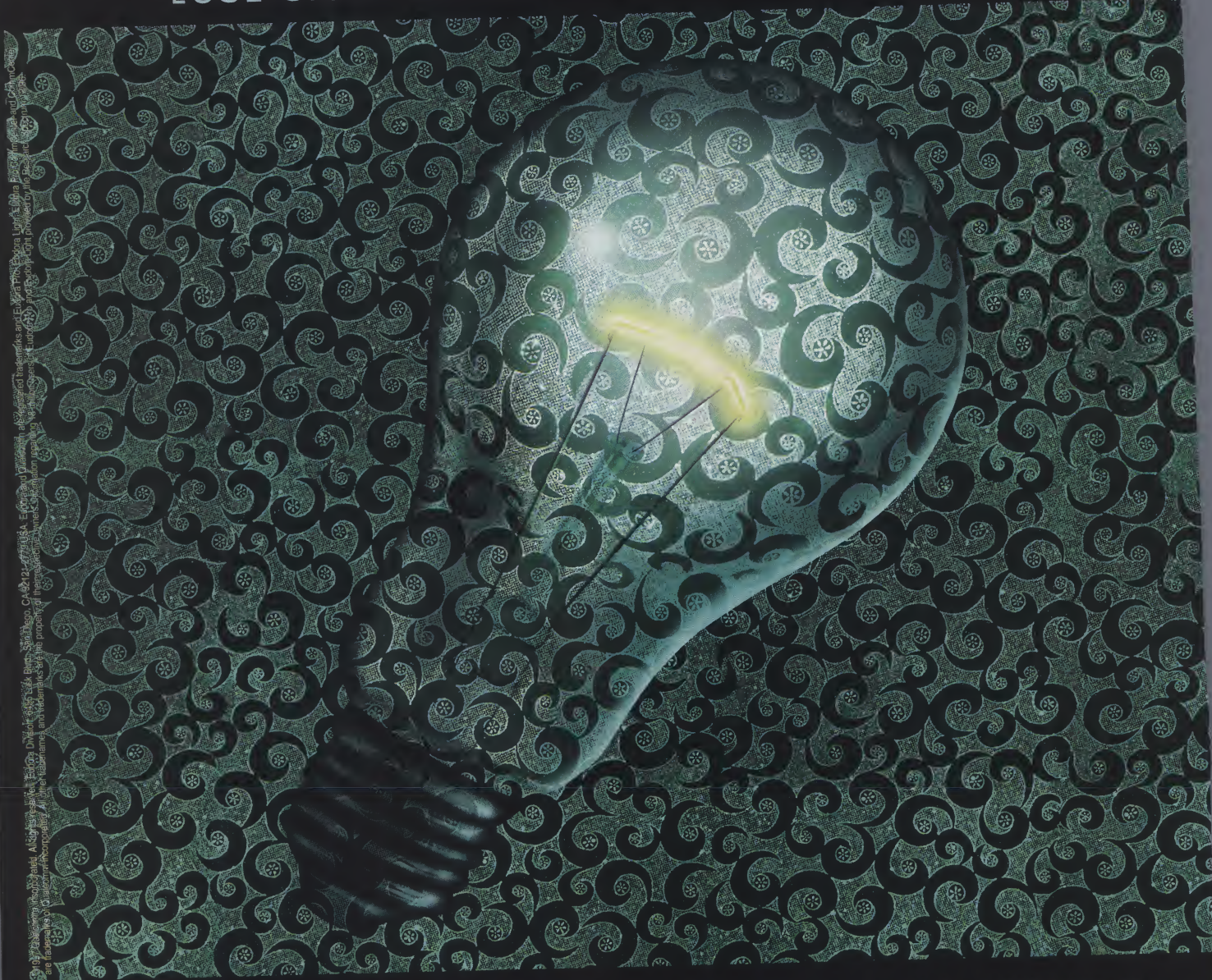


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THE TRUTH ABOUT MICROSOFT

Backed by Popular Demand?

Finally! Someone who's not afraid to speak the truth ("The Color of Microsoft," John C. Dvorak, January, page 65). Bill Gates woke up and saw that this new Internet thing had great potential. Then he decided that Microsoft would make a concerted effort in that direction. I laud his efforts but not his tactics. If Gates wants to compete, let Microsoft put a browser on the market and price it in line with the competition—and let the public choose.

JOE MICHELS
VIA THE INTERNET

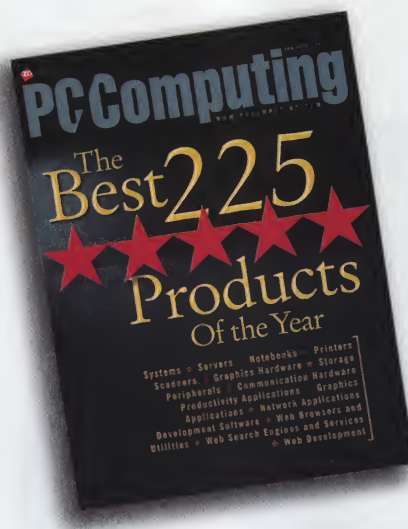
Redmond Racket

As a Micron Electronics employee, I know Microsoft has often used fear of being cut off from Windows to control what computer manufacturers offer ("The Color of Microsoft," John C. Dvorak, January). Even before Windows 95 was introduced, the rumor around Micron was that we had to sell a minimum number of copies of Microsoft Bob to get a lower price for Windows 95. Our fear of reprisal pushed Bob on customers. I was especially proud when Micron president Eric Browning spoke to the Justice Department about Microsoft's de facto control over what we offer customers. My pride dissipated, however, when Browning decided to kiss and make up with Bill Gates. Good thing our computers have significantly more spunk than our senior execs.

NAME WITHHELD BY REQUEST
VIA THE INTERNET

Sour Grapes?

John C. Dvorak sounds like a bitter man who didn't get on the Microsoft bandwagon in time to profit from its success ("The Color of Microsoft," January). In this country, when did business *not* engage in screwing the competition? What's wrong with letting the marketplace determine Bill Gates' success or



failure? Did anyone stop Netscape or any other such operation from making arrangements with PC manufacturers to package their products?

LEON MITCHELL
VIA THE INTERNET

Force-fed Browser

I hope John C. Dvorak's January column ("The Color of Microsoft") enlightens some readers—including his colleague Paul Somerson ("OS Police," January, page 61)—on the real reasons the Justice

Department is going after Microsoft. After installing the trial version of Money 98 the program prompts you for Internet Explorer to continue. This is yet another Microsoft tactic to force users to load its browser.

DAVID SCHMITZ
VIA THE INTERNET

Package Deal

Windows isn't a monopoly ("The Color of Microsoft," John C. Dvorak, January). Anybody has the right to make an operating system, and if it's better (and costs less) than the competition people will buy it. It would be ideal if all software came in one package: OS, word processor, spreadsheet, browser, e-mail, finance, and anything else a business needs. I envision companies using one package to compete in the years to come—running software on a central computer and hooking up via modem, or better yet a wireless connection.

PETER BRICEL
VIA THE INTERNET

Washington Technophobes

Thanks for your January commentary on our technophobic politicians ("OS Police," Paul Somerson). I'm concerned that the United States can't establish a standard for data encryption. This is typical, considering the way our country's foreign policy uses brute force or subversion to move its will.

DAN O'DONNELL
VIA THE INTERNET

Microsoft vs. DoJ

Regarding Paul Somerson's January column ("OS Police"), he's right about government interference with the Internet. But I disagree with him about the Department of Justice's case against Microsoft. It isn't a vendetta. If Bill Gates believes that Internet Explorer 4.0 is such a superior product, then why does he give it away? And Gates' coercion of computer makers into bundling IE4 with Windows 95 and not including Netscape—or else lose their right to the Microsoft OS—is monopoly in its true form. If Mr. Somerson can't see

the evil in these doings, he should call his column the "I Love Bill Corner."

MARSHALL FOSTER
VIA THE INTERNET

IT'S NOT A VENDETTA; it's purely political. But what's the big deal about giving IE away? It's essentially given away free when it's integrated in Windows 98. Netscape is about to start giving Navigator away too, and nothing prevents Win95 users from downloading it. There's no evil here, just smart, strong-arm marketing.

Free Ride

Taylor & Jerome are right in saying that people pay for content ("Free Lunch," January, page 63). But the problem is that a fee-based market will always be smaller than a market for those who want something for free. In the end, Web sites with valuable content succeed. But those that don't also succeed because they offer free stuff.

PATRICK KILLIPS
VIA THE INTERNET

Reader for Hire

Just wondering when I can expect a check from *PC Computing* for reading the ads in the magazine ("Free Lunch," Taylor & Jerome, January). Free lunch on the Net won't last long, if history is any guide.

ED WHITE
VIA THE INTERNET

Bloody Bad Taste

Ron White's flippant review of Office-terria makes me sick ("Take This Job and Spin It," CD-Ron, January, page 132). When White writes that he finds "the .45 semiautomatic pistol and the bloody bullet holes it makes in the boss's head a satisfying experience," should we assume that *PC Computing's* management allows this kind of game-playing? Disgruntled employees with firearms have murdered 7 of my coworkers over the past 25 years. Workplace violence is not cartoon violence.

CURTIS W. SWANSON
VIA THE INTERNET

LET'S SEE IF WE HAVE THIS

STRAIGHT: Curtis works in an environment where even talking about violence is banned; Ron works for a company where violent games are permitted and Doom death matches are a 5 p.m. ritual. At Curtis's company, seven people have been killed by fellow employees; at Ron's office, no one has been killed by anybody. Where would you rather work?

Good Read

Once upon a time, articles in computer magazines were written like Japanese stereo-installation instructions. Thanks to *PC Computing*, those days are gone. For the last year I've read every issue from cover to cover. Reviews are short and sweet; the prose is amusing; and the information is invaluable. I keep a pile of your magazines peppered with yellow sticky notes to mark articles that I refer to daily. You really have your finger on the pulse of the Web and the direction of PC computing.

CAMILLE LEDOUX
VIA THE INTERNET

Lunch Break

In regard to January's question of the month about playing games at work (Mail, page 48), sure, I play them, but so does my supervisor (who's the vice president of MIS). The catch, though, is that it's on our lunch hour.

THOMAS SALVITTI
VIA THE INTERNET

Mouse Practice

Some people spend too much time gaming at work, but that doesn't mean all games have no business value (Mail, January). Simple games like solitaire exercise hand-mouse-screen coordination, which helps make my job as LAN manager (which defaults to me because I'm the most computer literate) a lot easier. As it is, I spend way too much time showing people how to navigate files and applications using the mouse and keyboard.

JAN FULTON
VIA THE INTERNET

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No Excuse to Play

I don't play games at work (Mail, January). You'll probably hear from a lot of people who say they do, and defend their waste of company time with a variety of specious arguments like, "They owe it to me," or "It enhances my mouse skills." These are the same people who feel companies shouldn't read employees' e-mail. Companies supply the equipment and pay the employees to do work. The employees should actually *do* some work.

S.L. FISCHER
VIA COMPU SERVE

Waiting for Win98

I can't wait for Windows 98 if it gets us out of the mess Windows 95 created ("PC Rage," Paul Somerson, December, page 111). I don't care if there is *no* upgrade path. What difference does it make if you have to reinstall Windows 95 every six months?

JOHN BOWMAN
VIA THE INTERNET

Wish List

"PC Rage" was on target (Paul Somerson, December). I have two wishes that would help. The first is that computer magazines rate tech support, help files, and uninstall features for all software; and second, that Toyota would start making hardware and software.

JOE SULLIVAN
VIA THE INTERNET

Not So Automatic

Paul Somerson said exactly what I think in his column "PC Rage" (December). I've found myself in all the tight spots he mentions. Any software with the word *automation* on the box is anything but, and will probably make my life miserable.

LEE KISSELL
VIA THE INTERNET

Holiday Spirit

I liked "Holiday Hell" (Taylor & Jerome, December, page 113), but I disagree with

it. It's just plain old Christmas spirit to brave the crowds to do your shopping. You say there's no waiting on the Internet? The wait is horrible on several shopping mall sites I've visited, mainly because it takes so long to download a photo of the item I want. I do a lot of shopping on the Net, but the holidays are different. No online site can have every new item for the best price—although I do like to shop naked!

CARL J. SWANSON
VIA THE INTERNET

For the Record

The correct telephone number for Ameritech is (800) 832-6328 ("DSL vs. the World," January, page 263).

HAVE YOU EVER SNOOPED AROUND SOMEONE ELSE'S HARD DRIVE? DID YOU GET CAUGHT? Send your thoughts about this and other subjects to Mail, *PC Computing*, 50 Beale St., 13th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94105; via the Internet, PCCmail@zd.com. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

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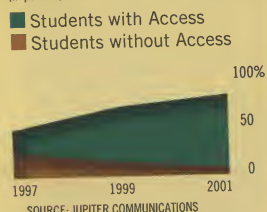


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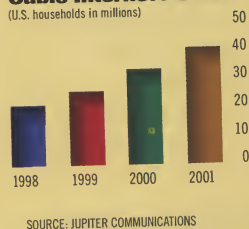


Students on the Internet (in percent)



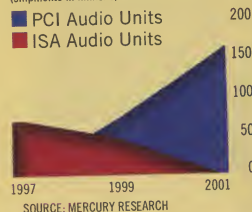
Higher Learning: By 2001, the Internet will be as crucial to college life as all-nighters and pizza. Nearly 90 percent of college students will have Internet access.

Cable Internet Access (U.S. households in millions)



What's On: Cable service will soon mean much more than 100 channels. Analysts expect over 40 million cable homes to be Internet-ready by 2001.

PC Audio Solutions (shipments in millions)



High Volume: ISA-based PC audio solutions are on the way out. Higher-bandwidth PCI-based audio boards will dominate by the end of the century.

SECURITY

Passwords at Your Fingertips

Your life is filled with passwords, PINs, and codes. Some are alpha, some are numeric, some are alphanumeric, and they're all a pain. Easy passwords are easy to guess, difficult ones are hard to remember. But passwords are about to get personal, and we don't mean your mother's maiden name. Biometrics keep your information safe by using the most secure code of all—your physical traits.

Once limited to the world of James Bond, *The X-Files*, and science-fiction movies, biometric security technologies analyze physical characteristics to establish a person's identity. From fingerprint and voice analysis to retinal scans and facial feature readers, biometric technologies render many password-security problems moot. Nobody can copy your fingerprints. No one will steal your retinal image. And even the best mimic can't match your voice patterns or facial features. High-tech? Yes. Expensive? Not really.

Dozens of security-minded companies are making high-grade biometrics affordable. A



Positive ID: Biometrics-based security devices read your fingerprints, listen to your voice patterns, and scan your retinas and facial features to establish your identity.

handful of hospitals and police departments around the country are already experimenting with biometric security and identification measures. Businesses could spend between \$150 and \$1,000 for a reliable security system based on biometrics. That's a small price to pay for foolproof security.

Most of the current biometric products rely on the most

mature physical identification science—fingerprint analysis. You register your identity by scanning in your fingerprints using a glass-prism print scanner that attaches to your computer system. The software then matches your fingerprints against the information in its database every time you log on. I/O Software, Key Tronic, and Digital Personal all offer

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security programs based on fingerprint analysis.

More advanced biometrics are on the horizon. A few products are already experimenting with using other identifying characteristics. Visionics' Face-It PC (www.faceit.com) turns your desktop videoconferencing camera into a personal security device—it analyzes facial shapes, lines, and features, and compares a user's face with stored profile information. And Net Nanny Software's BioPasswords (www.netnanny.com), due out later this year, analyzes the speed, patterns, and intervals of key clicks on the keyboard when you type out your password. Someone might still steal your password, but if they don't type it exactly the way you do, they're out of luck.

Of course, most biometric products come with their own caveats. This is a market of proprietary technologies, and without standards, a Tower of Babel looms. Though biometric data should remain private, a few shared open application program interfaces could help push development along.

As much as consumers hate lost or stolen passwords, they also treasure their privacy. Skeptics argue that biometrics means sharing too much sensitive information. But what biometrics most likely means for us is a world of faster access for authorized users, and tighter security against unauthorized ones. As our list of passwords—and our need to safeguard information—grows, biometrics may be the key to a more secure future. **RS**

Contributors to Pulse: LIESL LA GRANGE NOBLE and RICH SCHWERIN.
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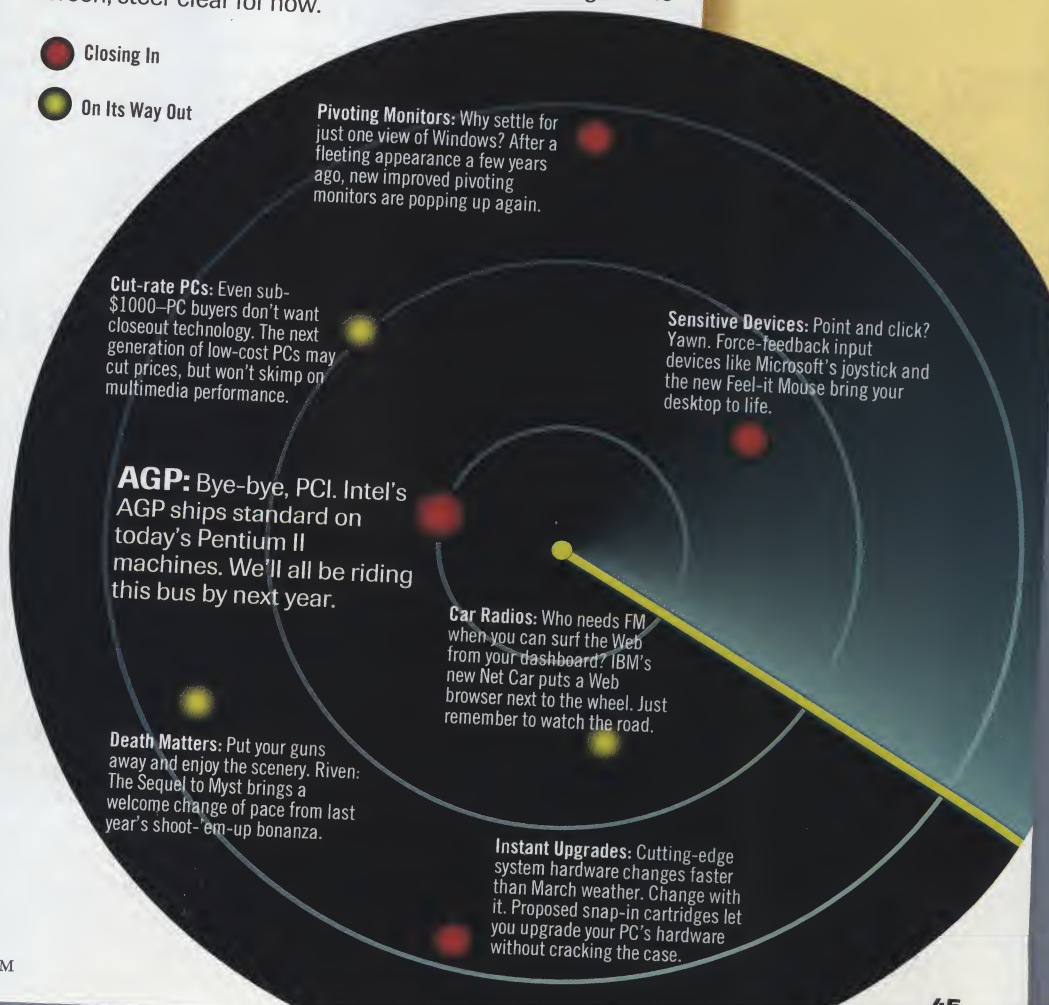
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- Closing In
- On Its Way Out



Pulse: NT Update

Think Thin

And the award for best code name for a secret Microsoft project goes to... Hydra. The vaguely menacing name creates a vivid image of what this NT Server add-on does, allowing thin client machines to access 32-bit Windows applications running on a remote server. By contrast, the official name—Microsoft Windows-based Terminal Server—is downright dull.

Despite the prosaic name, Microsoft has big plans for Terminal Server, which is now available in beta versions. If it lives up to its advanced billing, it has the potential to displace entrenched mainframes and minicomputers, including IBM's popular but aging AS/400. Terminal Server is a throwback to the days of time-sharing, with applications (including Microsoft

Office, Project, and line-of-business apps from SAP and PeopleSoft) running on the server; the client machine simply displays the user interface and captures keystrokes and mouse clicks, to send to the server using the Remote Desktop Protocol.

In theory, Terminal Server offers enormous savings in hardware and administrative costs. Instead of purchasing full-strength PCs capable of running NT Workstation, a corporation can simply install the client software on a terminal or a stripped-down PC with as little as 4MB of RAM. Because the server components and network protocols run on top of Windows NT Server 4.0 and support encryption, there's no need to sacrifice security, either.

Beta 1 includes server-side components and basic client software for Windows 95, NT 4.0 Workstation, and Windows for Workgroups 3.11. A terminal client for Windows CE should appear later this year.



It's Terminal: Run your 32-bit Windows apps with 4MB of RAM or less? Terminal Server lets bare-bones PCs do it all remotely.

Microsoft has lined up an impressive array of third parties to support Terminal Server, including hardware makers like Wyse, who suddenly see life in the moribund terminal market. Citrix Systems, which co-developed the Hydra software with Microsoft, will deliver enhanced versions later this year. Look for Citrix-branded Terminal Server management tools and client software for non-Windows clients.

Terminal Server is scheduled for final release in mid-1998; pricing is not yet set.

ED BOTT

NT TOOLS

WINDOWS NT 4.0 OPTION PACK

Until recently, Microsoft used service packs to deliver new NT features and bug fixes in a single massive download. No more. The latest major upgrade to NT represents a new philosophy: Service packs are for bug fixes only; the newest features appear instead in an Option Pack. The first of these appeared on Microsoft's Web site (www.microsoft.com/ntserver) late last year.

When you install the full update on an NT Server, you get Internet Information Server 4.0 (IIS4) with a full X.509 Certificate Server, Transaction Server 2.0, Message Queue Server 1.0, and the Internet Connection Services for Microsoft RAS. Interestingly, IIS4 requires that you install Internet Explorer 4.01 on the server, and it's incompatible with Proxy Server 1.0.

The full NT Option Pack lets you upgrade NT Server or NT Workstation, as you'd expect. In an unintuitive example of cross-coding, the Active Setup routine also installs the update on Windows 95. On NT and Win95 workstations, it installs only the Personal Web Server components and the Web Publishing Wizard.

BRIEFS NT NEWS AND TRENDS

Sun Replaces Java Virtual Machine

In the latest episode of the ongoing tug-of-war between Sun Microsystems and Microsoft over Java, Sun has written a full replacement for the Java virtual machine included in Internet Explorer 4.0. (Find it at java.sun.com/products/activator.) The new virtual machine lets developers exploit features that Microsoft removed from its own Java virtual machine.

MSN for NT... Eventually

Maybe the Microsoft Network isn't on its last legs. An NT-compatible "Technical Beta" of the MSN client software is available from fdl.msn.com/public/setup/msn25nt4/default.htm. Microsoft promises that NT5 will include a working MSN client for the first time ever. Sign up for the MSN beta program at msnbeta.msn.com/betainvite/nt.

Got the Time?

PC clocks drift over time, and even a few seconds a day can add up to problems if you depend on an NT server to keep a far-flung network in sync. The best way to keep the correct time is to tap into the atomic clock at the National Institute of Standards and Technology. Beagle Software's ClockWatch (www.beaglesoft.com) handles the details automatically. Highly recommended.

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The Internet fog has finally lifted. The InterJet™ from Whistle Communications™ is a revolutionary hardware and software solution created for small offices. Capable of handling speeds of 33.6 through T1, it's everything you need to give email and Internet access to the people who need it. Whether it's 5, 10, 50, even 100 employees. And it starts for as little as \$1,995. Find out why the InterJet keeps racking up awards, including the prestigious PC Computing 1997 Networking Product of the Year.

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Infolink 141 at: www.pccomputing.com/infolink

A-List

Editors' top picks in 100 hardware, software, and Internet categories. Edited by Wendy Taylor and Kyla K. Carlson



DESKTOP SYSTEMS

Top Pick

State-of-the-Art PC
Hewlett-Packard Vectra VL

High-Performance PC

NEC Computer Systems
Direction SPL 300

Desktop Workhorse

Dell Dimension XPS D233

Low-Cost Desktop PC

Seenix Technology Baby Grand-CS

SOHO System

IBM Aptiva S62

Pricewise Direct System

CyberMax ValueMax C5 233+MMX

The Buzz

Rock-you-back performance for a sizzling low price. We want it! We want it!

One of the best deals going for neck-snapping performance. Bolt it to your desk before you boot.

Yesterday's top-of-the-line MMX Pentium is today's bargain workhorse for Windows 95. Check it out.

A well-dressed Pentium for under \$1,000? Sold! As PC bargains go, the Baby Grand is as good as it gets.

At last! A multimedia PC that plays as hard as it works. The sleek black design means it's not a household eyesore either.

Surprise! The best dollar value for running Windows 95 and NT isn't an Intel machine. The ValueMax has screaming performance.

The Stats*

\$2,450, 333MHz Pentium II, 64MB SDRAM, 6.4GB hard drive, 8MB Matrox Millenium II. (800) 752-0900. See this issue, page 96.

\$2,217, 300MHz MMX Pentium II, 64MB RAM, 6.4GB hard drive. (888) 863-2669. See Feb. 1998, page 182.

\$2,079, 233MHz Pentium, 32MB RAM, 32X CD-ROM drive, Zip drive. (800) 545-3723. See this issue, page 174.

\$999, 166MHz Pentium, 16MB RAM, 24X CD-ROM, 33.6Kbps fax modem. (800) 555-4031. See Jan. 1998, page 149.

\$2,499, 266MHz Pentium II, 32MB RAM, 6.4GB hard drive, DVD, 56Kbps modem. (800) 426-7235. See Jan. 1998, page 152.

\$1,699, 233MHz 6x86, 64MB RAM. (888) 437-4596. See Jan. 1998, page 149.



SERVERS

Top Pick

High-Performance Web Server
Compaq ProLiant 850R 6/200H

Small Workgroup Server

Micron Electronics Netframe LV2000

Large Workgroup Server

Digital Prioris HX 6266

The Buzz

Everything you need to serve up an NT-based Web site—in under an hour.

Jump-start your network: Micron's dual-processor Pentium Pro server runs full steam ahead.

The fastest dual-processor Pentium II server to date, with an astonishingly low price.

The Stats*

\$4,800, 200MHz Pentium Pro, 128MB RAM, 4.3GB SCSI hard drive. (800) 345-1518. See this issue, page 104.

\$8,498, 233MHz MMX Pentium Pro, 256MB ECC RAM. (888) 634-8799. See Jan. 1998, page 155.

\$10,990, 266MHz Pentium II, 256MB ECC RAM, 4GB SCSI drive. (800) 344-4825. See Jan. 1998, page 152.

Living-Room LAN: Thanks to new, easy OSs like NT Small Business Server and Home Plug 'n Play, a server may soon control your lights and TV.



PORTABLE SYSTEMS

Top Pick

State-of-the-Art Portable
IBM ThinkPad 770

Desktop Replacement

NEC Computer Systems Versa 6060

Traveling Multimedia Portable

Micron Electronics TransPort VLX

The Buzz

The civilized way to travel: a 14.1-inch display, surround-sound audio, DVD, and a 33.6Kbps modem included.

An excellent dollar value for a desktop replacement. Looks sharp too.

Everything you need to give presentations and stay productive on the road—for under \$2,500.

The Stats*

\$7,000, 233MHz MMX Pentium, 32MB SDRAM, 5.1GB hard drive. (800) 426-2968. See Jan. 1998, page 156.

\$3,299, 166MHz MMX Pentium, 32MB RAM, 3GB hard drive. (888) 863-2669. See Oct. 1997, page 256.

\$2,499, 133MHz Pentium, 16MB RAM, 1.44GB hard drive. (888) 634-8799. See Jan. 1998, page 157.

*ESTIMATED STREET PRICE.

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the latest
technology at
the right price,
we offer System
Consultants
to help you make
sense of it all.**





NEC Direction™ Business Series Desktops

Common Features: Minitower or Desktop Tool-Less Chassis • 512KB L2 Cache • 3.5" Floppy Drive • 2 Universal Serial Bus (USB) Ports • Windows® 95 • Microsoft Office 97 Small Business Edition • Microphone • Microsoft IntelliMouse® • NEC Palmrest Keyboard • 3-Year Limited Warranty

Direction SPL333

- 333MHz Pentium® II processor
- 64MB SDRAM Memory
- 9.1GB Ultra DMA Hard Drive
- DVD-ROM Drive and Decoder Card
- NEC C700 17" Monitor (16" viewable)
- Diamond Viper® AGP, 4MB SGRAM Graphics Card
- Altec® Lansing ACS-45 Speakers with Subwoofer
- Yamaha Wavetable Audio
- 32X max Variable Speed CD-ROM
- Select either U.S. Robotics® x2 56Kbps* Modem or 3COM 3C905 10/100 PCI Network Card
- * Upgrade to 128MB SDRAM Memory, add \$179
- * Upgrade to NEC C900™ 19" Monitor (18" viewable), add \$249

\$2999

Bus. Lease: \$111/mo. Code #D5063

Direction SPL333

- 333MHz Pentium II processor
- 64MB SDRAM Memory
- 8.4GB Ultra DMA Hard Drive
- NEC C700 17" Monitor (16" viewable)
- Number Nine Revolution 3D AGP, 4MB WRAM Graphics Card
- Altec Lansing ACS-90 Speakers
- 32X max Variable Speed CD-ROM
- Select either U.S. Robotics x2 56Kbps* Modem or 3COM 3C905 10/100 PCI Network Card
- * Upgrade to 128MB SDRAM Memory, add \$179
- * Upgrade to NEC C900 19" Monitor (18" viewable), add \$249
- * Iomega 100MB Internal Zip Drive with One Cartridge, add \$99
- * Upgrade to Yamaha Wavetable Audio, add \$49
- * Upgrade to Altec Lansing ACS-45 Speakers with Subwoofer, add \$39

\$2699

Bus. Lease: \$100/mo. Code #D5064

Direction SPL300

- 300MHz Pentium II processor
- 64MB SDRAM Memory
- 9.1GB Ultra DMA Hard Drive
- NEC C700 17" Monitor (16" viewable)
- Diamond Viper AGP, 4MB SGRAM Graphics Card
- Altec Lansing ACS-45 Speakers with Subwoofer
- 32X max Variable Speed CD-ROM
- Select either U.S. Robotics x2 56Kbps* Modem or 3COM 3C905 10/100 PCI Network Card
- * Upgrade to 128MB SDRAM Memory, add \$179
- * Upgrade to NEC C900 19" Monitor (18" viewable), add \$249
- * Iomega 100MB Internal Zip Drive with One Cartridge, add \$99

\$2499

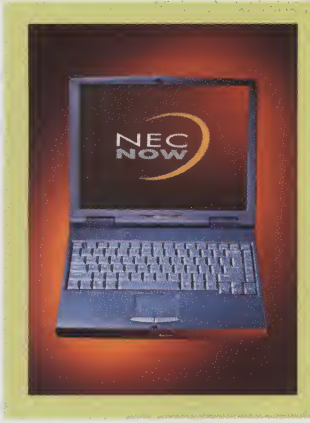
Bus. Lease: \$92/mo. Code #D5065

Direction Add Ons:

- * Upgrade Memory from 64MB SDRAM to 128MB SDRAM, add \$179
- * Iomega® 100MB Internal Zip Drive with One Cartridge, add \$99
- * Upgrade to Yamaha Wavetable Audio, add \$49

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NEC Versa® 5000 Series Notebooks

Everything you expect in a notebook – except the weight.

Common Features: Full Function Notebook at only **4.9 Pounds**** and **1.5 Inches Thin** • Portable Productivity Design includes Full Size Keyboard with VersaGlide™ and Tool-Less Access to Hard Drive, Memory and VersaBay™ • PCI Bus Architecture • NeoMagic 128-bit Graphics Accelerator with 2MB VRAM • Full Motion, Full Screen MPEG-1 Video Support • 32-bit CardBus Support • Zoomed Video Support • USB Port • 4Mbps Fast Infrared Port • 16-bit Stereo Sound with 2 Integrated Speakers • Lithium Ion Battery • Microsoft Windows 95 • Microsoft Windows NT® Workstation 4.0 Capable • 3-Year Limited Warranty with 1-Year Free UltraCare™ Service

Versa 5080X

- 233MHz Pentium processor with MMX™ technology
- 13.3" XGA Active-Matrix TFT Color Display
- 80MB EDO DRAM (80MB max)
- 512KB L2 Pipeline Burst Cache
- 4GB Hard Drive
- Modular UltraSlim VersaBay with Warm-Swap Technology Accepts 20X max Variable Speed CD-ROM, 1.44MB Floppy Drive and Weight Saving Module (all included)
- * 2nd Lithium Ion Battery, add \$199
- * Microsoft Windows NT Workstation 4.0, add \$99
- * VersaExec™ Leather Carrying Case, add \$199

\$4199

Bus. Lease: \$151/mo. Code #V5085

Versa 5080X

- 233MHz Pentium processor with MMX technology
- 13.3" XGA Active-Matrix TFT Color Display
- 32MB EDO DRAM (80MB max)
- 512KB L2 Pipeline Burst Cache
- 2.1GB Hard Drive
- Modular UltraSlim VersaBay with Warm-Swap Technology Accepts 20X max Variable Speed CD-ROM, 1.44MB Floppy Drive and Weight Saving Module (all included)
- * Upgrade to 64MB RAM, add \$299
- * U.S. Robotics x2 XJACK® 56Kbps* Modem, add \$159
- * Versa PortBar™ 5000 with 10Base-T, add \$249
- * VersaNote Ballistic Nylon Compact Carrying Case, add \$59

\$3699

Bus. Lease: \$133/mo. Code #V5083

Versa 5060X

- 166MHz Pentium processor with MMX technology
- 13.3" XGA Active-Matrix TFT Color Display
- 32MB EDO DRAM (80MB max)
- 256KB L2 Pipeline Burst Cache
- 2.1GB Hard Drive
- Modular UltraSlim VersaBay with Warm-Swap Technology Accepts 20X max Variable Speed CD-ROM, 1.44MB Floppy Drive and Weight Saving Module (all included)
- * Upgrade to 64MB RAM, add \$299
- * 2nd Lithium Ion Battery, add \$199
- * PowerXtender™ Airplane and Auto Adapter, add \$89
- * Upgrade to UltraCare Extended Service, add \$99

\$3199

Bus. Lease: \$118/mo. Code #V5061M01



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**Base model (5060) weighs 4.9 lbs. Other models may vary in weight.

For government pricing call 1-888-4-GOV-NEC

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Direction SPL333

- 333MHz Pentium II processor
- 64MB SDRAM Memory
- 4.3GB Ultra DMA Hard Drive
- NEC C550™ 15" Monitor (14" viewable)
- Diamond Viper AGP, 4MB SGRAM Graphics Card
- Altec Lansing ACS-90 Speakers
- 32X max Variable Speed CD-ROM
- U.S. Robotics x2 56Kbps* Modem
- * Upgrade to 128MB SDRAM Memory, add \$179
- * Upgrade to 6.4GB Ultra DMA Hard Drive, add \$89
- * Upgrade to NEC C700 17" Monitor (16" viewable), add \$199
- * Iomega 100MB Internal Zip Drive with One Cartridge, add \$99

BEST BUY

\$2199

Bus. Lease: \$81/mo. Code #D5066

NEC Direction Personal Series Desktops

Common Features: Minitower or Desktop Tool-Less Chassis • 512KB L2 Cache • 3.5" Floppy Drive • 2 Universal Serial Bus (USB) Ports • Integrated Yamaha Sound • Microsoft Windows 95 • Microsoft Home Essentials • Microphone • Microsoft IntelliMouse • NEC Palmrest Keyboard • 3-Year Limited Warranty with 1-Year On-Site Service

Direction 300L

- 300MHz Pentium II processor
- 64MB SDRAM Memory
- 4.3GB Ultra DMA Hard Drive
- NEC C550 15" Monitor (14" viewable)
- Number Nine Reality 334 AGP, 4MB SGRAM Graphics Card
- Altec Lansing ACS-90 Speakers
- 24X max Variable Speed CD-ROM
- U.S. Robotics x2 56Kbps* Winmodem
- * Upgrade to 128MB SDRAM Memory, add \$179
- * Upgrade to 6.4GB Ultra DMA Hard Drive, add \$89
- * Upgrade to NEC C700 17" Monitor (16" viewable), add \$199
- * Iomega 100MB Internal Zip Drive with One Cartridge, add \$99
- * Upgrade to Number Nine Revolution 3D AGP, 4MB WRAM Graphics Card, add \$149

\$1899

Consumer Lease: \$75/mo. Code #D5067

Direction 266L

- 266MHz Pentium II processor
- 64MB SDRAM Memory
- 4.3GB Ultra DMA Hard Drive
- NEC C550 15" Monitor (14" viewable)
- Number Nine Reality 334 AGP, 4MB SGRAM Graphics Card
- Altec Lansing ACS-90 Speakers
- 24X max Variable Speed CD-ROM
- U.S. Robotics x2 56Kbps* Winmodem
- * Upgrade to 128MB SDRAM Memory, add \$179
- * Upgrade to 6.4GB Ultra DMA Hard Drive, add \$89
- * Upgrade to NEC C700 17" Monitor (16" viewable), add \$199
- * Iomega 100MB Internal Zip Drive with One Cartridge, add \$99
- * Upgrade to Number Nine Revolution 3D AGP, 4MB WRAM Graphics Card, add \$149

\$1699

Consumer Lease: \$67/mo. Code #D5068

Direction 233L

- 233MHz Pentium II processor
- 64MB SDRAM Memory
- 3.2GB Ultra DMA Hard Drive
- NEC C550 15" Monitor (14" viewable)
- Number Nine Reality 334 AGP, 4MB SGRAM Graphics Card
- Altec Lansing ACS-90 Speakers
- 24X max Variable Speed CD-ROM
- U.S. Robotics x2 56Kbps* Winmodem
- * Upgrade to 128MB SDRAM Memory, add \$179
- * Upgrade to 4.3GB Ultra DMA Hard Drive, add \$49
- * Upgrade to NEC C700 17" Monitor (16" viewable), add \$199
- * Iomega 100MB Internal Zip Drive with One Cartridge, add \$99
- * Upgrade to Number Nine Revolution 3D AGP, 4MB WRAM Graphics Card, add \$149

\$1599

Consumer Lease: \$63/mo. Code #D5069

n see why that might be helpful.

NEC Versa 2700 Series Notebooks

All-in-one convenience at a sensible price.

Common Features: PC 97 Compliant • DMI 2.0 Compliant • PCI Bus Architecture • NeoMagic 128-bit Graphics Accelerator with 2MB VRAM • Integrated 56Kbps* Modem • Full Motion, Full Screen MPEG-1 Video • 32-bit CardBus Support • Zoomed Video Support • USB Port • 4Mbps Fast Infrared Port • Stereo Speakers and Subwoofer with 3D Surround Sound and Yamaha Software Wavetable • Microsoft Windows 95 and Microsoft Internet Explorer 4.0 • 1-Year Free UltraCare Service with Option to Upgrade

Versa 2785MT

- 233MHz Pentium processor with MMX technology
- 12.1" SVGA Active-Matrix TFT Color Display
- 32MB EDO DRAM (128MB max)
- 512KB L2 Pipeline Burst Cache
- Built-in 2.1GB Hard Drive, 20X max Variable Speed CD-ROM, 1.44MB Floppy Drive, and Lithium Ion Battery
- Microsoft Office 97 Small Business Edition
- Microsoft IntelliMouse
- * Upgrade to 64MB RAM, add \$299
- * NEC Xircom 10Base-T Network Card, add \$99
- * PowerXtender Airplane and Auto Adapter, add \$89

\$2999

Bus. Lease: \$111/mo. Code #V2715M19

Versa 2765MT

- 166MHz Pentium processor with MMX technology
- 12.1" SVGA Active-Matrix TFT Color Display
- 32MB EDO DRAM (128MB max)
- 256KB L2 Pipeline Burst Cache
- Built-in 2.1GB Hard Drive, 16X max Variable Speed CD-ROM, 1.44MB Floppy Drive, and Lithium Ion Battery
- Microsoft Office 97 Small Business Edition
- Microsoft IntelliMouse
- * Upgrade to 64MB RAM, add \$299
- * Versa PortBar 2700 Port Replicator, add \$159
- * Upgrade to UltraCare Extended Service, add \$199

\$2599

Bus. Lease: \$96/mo. Code #V2714M19

NEC Express5800™ Series Servers

The expandable, affordable Pentium II processor-based workgroup server.

Express5800 LE2200

- Dual-capable 233, 266 or 300MHz Pentium II processors
- 512KB L2 Cache with ECC
- Up to 512MB ECC DIMM Memory
- Ultra Wide PCI SCSI Controller
- 4 Hard Disk Bays for up to 36GB Capacity
- 6 Expansion Slots; 3 PCI and 3 ISA
- 12X max Variable Speed CD-ROM, 1.44MB Floppy Drive
- ESMPro™ Server Management Suite
- ExpressBuilder Installation Software
- 3-Year On-Site Service Warranty
- In-Chassis RAID Option
- Certified for Microsoft Windows NT and Novell NetWare

Fully configured servers starting at:

\$2809

Leasing Available

All the features of a Pentium II processor-based server at a desktop PC price.

Express5800 ES1200

- Single 233, 266 or 300MHz Pentium II processor
- 512KB Integrated L2 Cache with ECC
- Up to 512MB ECC DIMM Memory
- Integrated Ultra Wide SCSI Controller
- 3 Disk Drive Bays for up to 27GB capacity
- 6 Expansion Slots; 4 PCI and 2 ISA
- 24X max IDE CD-ROM, 1.44MB Floppy Drive
- ESMPro Server Management Suite
- ExpressBuilder Installation Software
- 3-Year On-Site Service Warranty
- Supports Cost Conscious EIDE Hard Drives
- In-Chassis RAID Option
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- Certified for Microsoft Windows NT and Novell NetWare

Fully configured servers starting at:

\$2249

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NEC



PORTABLE SYSTEMS continued

Top Pick

Lightweight Traveling Companion
IBM ThinkPad 560E

Handheld Portable

3Com PalmPilot Professional

The Buzz

Get a 12.1-inch display and top-drawer usability in this sub-5-pound package. For a lighter load, check out Toshiba's Portégé.

So much fun to use you'll actually take it with you. For a wallet-size PC, consider Franklin's \$129 credit-card-size Rex.

The Stats*

\$3,099, 166MHz MMX Pentium, 16MB EDO RAM, 2.1GB hard drive. (800) 426-2255. See Jan. 1998, page 156.

\$369 list price, 1MB RAM, backlit display, 5.7 ounces. (800) 881-7256. See Jan. 1998, page 157.



PRINTERS

Top Pick

Low-Cost Desktop Laser Printer
NEC Technologies SuperScript 860

High-Speed Desktop Laser Printer
NEC Technologies SuperScript 1260

High-Speed Network Laser Printer
Hewlett-Packard LaserJet 5Si Mopier

Multifunction Printer/Fax/Copier
Brother MFC-4550 Plus

Desktop Color Printer
Epson America Stylus Color 800

Low-Cost Network Color Printer
Hewlett-Packard DeskJet 1600CM

High-Speed Network Color Printer
Lexmark Optra SC 1275n

Photo-Quality Color Printer
Tektronix Phaser 450

The Buzz

A full-featured 600-dpi desktop laser printer for under \$400? Why not put one on every desk?

Double-digit engine speeds for petty cash, and the software is as easy as it gets.

It prints, sorts, and staples at speeds close to your \$20,000 copy machine. It's more fun to use too.

The only peripheral your small office needs: It's a laser printer, scanner, fax, and copier in one.

You can't get better color printing at a better price anywhere. The perfect partner for a digital camera.

The least expensive way to give everyone on the network ink-jet color output. It's fast too.

Breaks all the rules about color laser printers: It's fast, it's high-res—and it doesn't cost a fortune.

Need the best photo output money can buy? This is your printer.

The Stats*

\$349, 8 ppm, 600 dpi. (800) 632-4636. See Jan. 1998, page 163.

\$699, 12 ppm, 600 dpi, network option. (800) 632-4636. Stay tuned.

\$9,143 list price, 24 ppm, 3,100-page capacity, 420MB disk drive. (800) 752-0900. See Dec. 1996, page 106.

\$699, 600-dpi laser printer, copier, fax, scanner. (908) 356-8880. See Jan. 1998, page 164.

\$399, 1,440-by-720-dpi color and black, 7-ppm color, 8-ppm black. (800) 463-7766. See Jan. 1998, page 162.

\$1,999, ink jet, 4-ppm color, 9-ppm black. (800) 752-0900. See Jan. 1998, page 162.

\$4,450, 1,200 dpi, 3-ppm color, 12-ppm black, printer management software. (800) 539-6275. See Jan. 1998, page 163.

\$6,995 list price, dye sublimation, 300 dpi, 16MB RAM. (800) 835-6100. Stay tuned.



STORAGE

Top Pick

Hard Drive
Seagate Technology Medalist Pro 9140

Removable Storage
SyQuest Technology SyJet

CD-ROM Drive
Panasonic 12X Big 5

The Buzz

File management? Why bother? With a drive this big and fast you can just save it all. Watch for 14GB drives to appear soon.

The fastest, most affordable way to take all your data with you. Expect a 2GB Jaz drive to arrive this spring.

Stop the CD shuffle! Get a five-disc, 12-speed CD changer for the price of a single-disc drive.

The Stats*

\$495, 9.1GB capacity, 9.5ms average seek time, 5.4 cents per MB. (800) 732-4283. See Jan. 1998, page 184.

\$299 for external drive, \$299 for internal, 1.5GB, 6 cents per MB of storage. (800) 245-2278. See Jan. 1998, page 185.

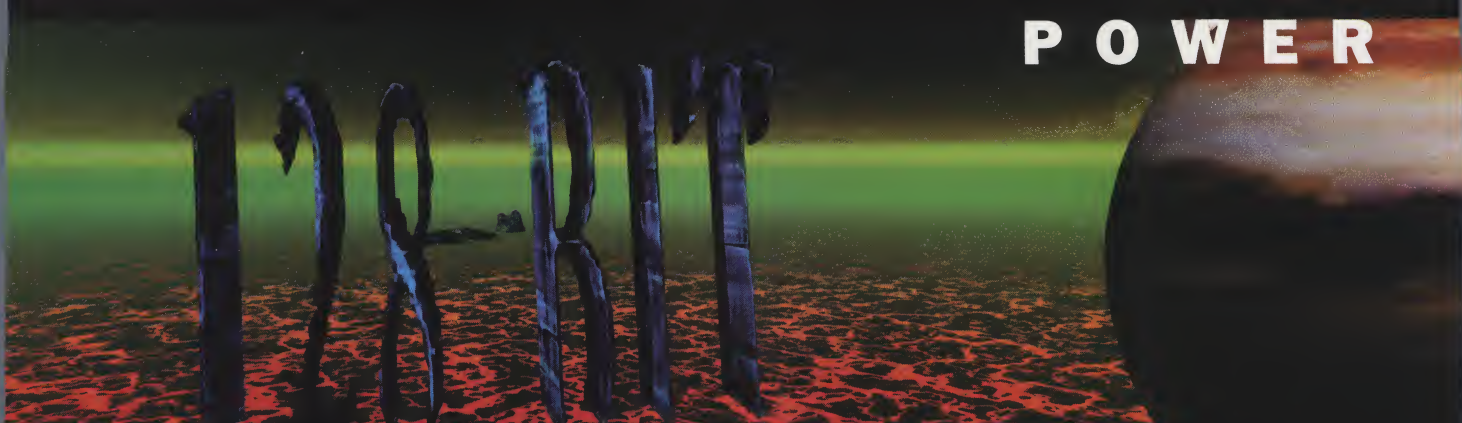
\$279, EIDE interface, 12X changer, holds five discs. (800) 742-8086. See Jan. 1998, page 186.

*ESTIMATED STREET PRICE UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE.

Photo Center: Got a digital camera? Now get Epson's Stylus Color—the cheapest way to get realistic color photo output.

Hold It: Soon every well-dressed notebook will have a Zip drive option. Next up: Iomega's Click holds 40MB on a wafer the size of a dinner mint.

POWER



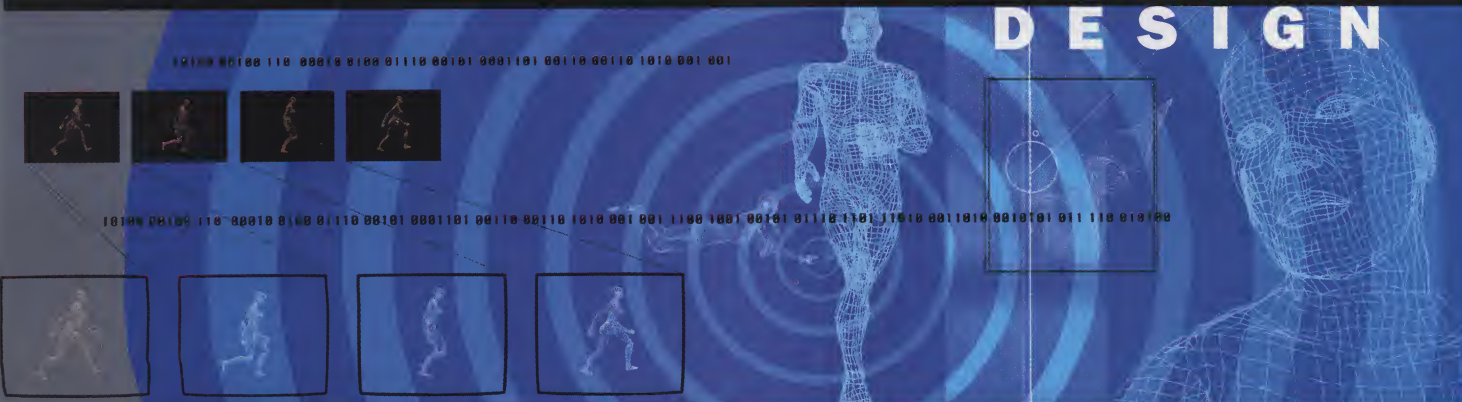
• 128-bit 2D/3D multimedia accelerator • 4MB of 100MHz SGRAM memory • 230MHz integrated RAMDAC

ACTION



• 1.6 Gigabyte/sec data transfer rate • Video out for connection to TV's • Vertex and texture caching

DESIGN



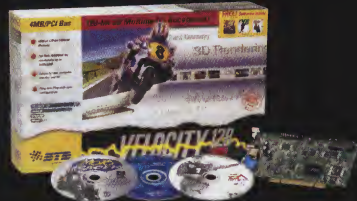
• 5 GFLOP setup & rendering engine • 100 Million rendered pixel/sec fill rate • Lifetime Warranty



powered by NVIDIA RIVA 128

3D WinBench '97 Performance

VELOCITY 128	252
Monster (3Dfx)	203
ATI XPERT@Play	143
Mystique 220	79.1
Millennium II	73.9



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Infotlink 363 at: www.pccomputing.com/infotlink

STORAGE continued

Top Pick

CD-Recordable Drive

Ricoh MediaMaster

Network Storage

Seagate Technology Barracuda 18

The Buzz

An inexpensive way to roll your own CDs and share multimegabyte files. This one's rewritable too.

Upgrade that trusty Barracuda 9 to the mother of all hard drives: the sizzling Barracuda 18.

The Stats*

\$699 list price for internal drive, \$25 each for discs, six-speed read, two-speed write. (800) 225-1899. Stay tuned.

\$1,700, 18GB, 100MBps peak transfer rate. (800) 732-4283. See this issue, page 174.



PERIPHERALS

Top Pick

Personal Document Scanner

Storm Technology EasyPhoto SmartPage Pro

Graphics Scanner

Epson Expression 636 Pro

Digital Camera

Kodak Digital Science DC210

Sound Card

Creative Labs Sound Blaster AWE64 Gold

Speakers

Altec Lansing ADA310 PowerCube USB Digital Audio Speaker System

Uninterruptible Power Supply

Best Power Patriot Plus

Input Device

Dragon NaturallySpeaking

The Buzz

Tame your paper in-box, turn hard copy pages into editable text, and scan color photos in seconds.

Why should the art department have the perks? Epson's high-res flatbed scanner makes professional scans one-button easy.

A no-compromise point-and-shoot camera with excellent image quality. The price isn't bad either.

Makes games so real you'll duck when bullets sing by your head. Oh yeah, it's also great for business multimedia.

Get better sound from your desktop than your stereo with this USB-controlled AC-3 system.

Don't get zapped. Protect your PC and data from stray power spikes and blackouts with the six-outlet Patriot Plus.

Here's a neat trick: Talk to your PC and it writes what you say—you don't even have to touch the keyboard.

The Stats*

\$149, 30-bit, 600-by-300 dpi, OCR, image editing, and document management. (888) 438-3279. See Dec. 1997, page 336.

\$1,399, 36-bit, 600 by 1,200 dpi (4,800-dpi enhanced). (800) 463-7766. See Jan. 1998, page 167.

\$899, 1,152-by-864 images, video-out 2X zoom, CompactFlash storage. (800) 235-6325. See Feb. 1998, page 106.

\$199, 64-voice. (800) 998-5227. See Jan. 1998, page 186.

\$249, 24-watt subwoofer with AC-3 decoder, 3-inch satellite speakers. (800) 258-3288. Stay tuned.

\$399 list price, 650-VA UPS, six outlets. (800) 356-5794. See Jan. 1998, page 193.

\$159, Windows 95, 133MHz Pentium, 32MB of RAM. (800) 437-2466. See Jan. 1998, page 189.



VIDEO HARDWARE

Top Pick

High-Resolution 20- or 21-Inch Monitor

Sony GDM-500PS

High-Resolution 17-Inch Monitor

Sony Multiscan GDM-200PS

Flat-Panel Display

NEC Technologies MultiSync LCD2000

Graphics Accelerator

Number Nine Revolution 3D

The Buzz

Swap your 17-incher for this 21-inch Trinitron and you'll never look back. Honest.

Priced a bit higher than the competition, but you're worth it, right?

Compaq's 15-inch flat panel offers sharper images, but the NEC gives you 20.1 inches. If money's no object, this is the one to buy.

The board to have if you work hard and play hard too. Screaming-fast 2-D and 3-D to rival any game card. Great for NT.

The Stats*

\$1,799 21-inch, 1,600 by 1,200 pixels at 66Hz, Plug and Play. (800) 352-7669. See this issue, page 174.

\$849, 1,280 by 1,024 pixels at 75Hz. (800) 352-7669. See May 1997, page 191.

\$7,999, 0.31mm pitch, 20.1 inches, 8.5-inch depth, 1,280 by 1,024 resolution at 75Hz. (800) 632-4636. See Nov. 1997, page 266.

\$299, 8MB WRAM, 1,920 by 1,200 pixels at 65K color, PCI interface. (800) 438-6463. See Nov. 1997, page 114.

*ESTIMATED STREET PRICE UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE.

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• 1600 x 1200/75 Hz
• 30-95 kHz
auto-scan range

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auto-scan range

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• 30-70 kHz
auto-scan range



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DISPLAY PRODUCTS
Innovation On Display_{sm}

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Infolink 318 at: www.pccomputing.com/infolink

VIDEO HARDWARE continued

Top Pick	The Buzz	The Stats*
3-D Game Card STB Systems Velocity 128	Stunning 3-D for games and fast 2-D too. We want it yesterday.	\$179, 4MB SGRAM, 1,024 by 768 pixels at 120Hz, PCI interface. (888) 234-8750. See Nov. 1997, page 114.
Multimedia Accelerator ATI All-in-Wonder Pro	The future of PC graphics: a high-speed 3-D accelerator, TV tuner, and video-capture card in one.	\$299, 4MB VRAM. (905) 882-2600. See this issue, page 195.
Video Capture Pinnacle Systems miroVideo DC30 Plus	Show Hollywood how it's done with this high-speed digital video editing combo.	\$999, 704 by 480 capture resolution. (888) 484-3366. See this issue, page 195.
Presentation Projector In Focus LP420	It's like a mobile movie theater. Take your sizzling presentations on the road with this 6.8-pound wonder.	\$5,999, 800 by 600 resolution, 400 ANSI Lumens 600, 6.8 pounds. (800) 294-6400. Stay tuned.



COMMUNICATION HARDWARE

Pedal to the Metal: T1 throughput over analog phone lines? Watch for DSL to bring it to you—probably before your phone company is ready.

Top Pick	The Buzz	The Stats*
High-Speed Fax Modem 3Com U.S. Robotics 56K Faxmodem	Put your Net connection on fast-forward. Don't sweat the pending 56Kbps standard: 3Com will upgrade your modem for free.	\$219, external, 56Kbps (x2 standard) flash-ROM upgradable. (800) 342-5877. See Jan. 1998, page 193.
Desktop Videoconferencing PictureTel Live 200	Slash your travel costs and spend more time with the kids: Live 200 lets you host meetings without leaving the office.	\$1,195, H.320-compliant. (800) 716-6000. See Jan. 1998, page 199.
ISDN Adapter 3ComImpact IQ	ISDN doesn't have to hurt. You'll be up in minutes with 3ComImpact's toll-free setup service and SuperNetAccess.	\$399 list price, (800) 572-3266. See Feb. 1998, page 280.
LAN Adapter 3Com Fast EtherLink XL PCI 10/100 Network Interface Card	Boost your network performance without breaking the bank. Runs at 10Mbps and 100Mbps speeds.	\$89, 10Mbps or 100Mbps. (800) 638-3266. See Jan. 1998, page 194.
PC Card Modem Ositech Communications Five of Hearts Trumpcard	Put a 56K modem in your portable—and make calls through digital hotel PBXs—with this smart credit-card-size modem.	\$250, K56flex standard. (888) 674-8324. See Oct. 1997, page 286.
PC Card LAN Adapter Xircom CreditCard Ethernet 10/100+Modem 56	Connect to your laptop or network at either 10Mbps or 100Mbps, and go online at up to 56K (K56flex technology).	\$322, PC Card Type II slot, RJ-45 and RJ-11 jacks, upgradable to 56K standard. (800) 438-4526. See Jan. 1998, page 194.



DESKTOP APPLICATIONS

Lingua Franca: Soon it won't matter if you use Word and your colleagues don't. Future versions of Office will use HTML as a universal file format.

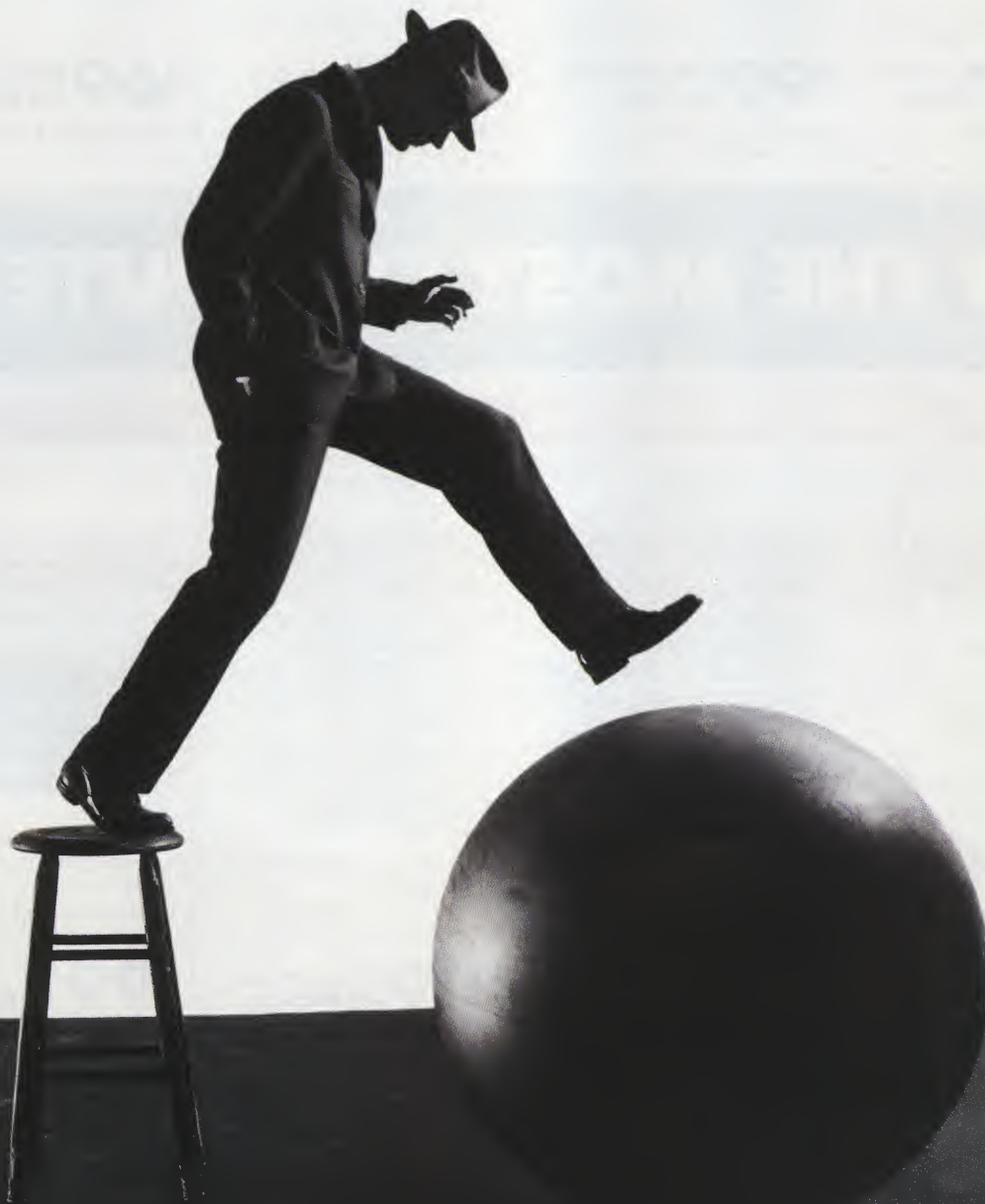
Top Pick	The Buzz	The Stats*
Software Suite Microsoft Office 97	It's not perfect, but it's the world's best-selling business application suite by a mile.	\$499 for Standard Edition, \$599 for Professional Edition, Windows 95 or NT. (800) 426-9400. See Jan 1998, page 206.
Word Processor Microsoft Word 97	The standard for businesses everywhere. WordPerfect fans: Don't miss Corel WordPerfect Suite 8 Professional.	\$339, Windows 95 or Windows NT 3.51, 8MB RAM, 16MB RAM for NT. (800) 426-9400. See Jan. 1997, page 87.
Spreadsheet Microsoft Excel 97	It's a one-horse race and guess who's winning? Even Lotus's upgrade of 1-2-3 can't unseat this business favorite.	\$339, Windows 95 or Windows NT 3.51, 12MB RAM, 16MB RAM for NT. (800) 426-9400. See Jan. 1997, page 87.

*ESTIMATED STREET PRICE UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE.



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DELL DIMENSION® DESKTOPS FOR BUSINESS

Common features: ♦ Mini-Tower Model ♦ 512KB Integrated L2 Cache ♦ 3.5" Floppy Disk Drive ♦ Dell® Quiet Key® Keyboard ♦ Two USB Ports ♦ MS® Office 97 Small Business Edition (includes Word 97, Excel 97, Publisher 97, Outlook 97, Small Business Financial Manager 97) plus Bookshelf 98 ♦ McAfee VirusScan ♦ MS Windows® 95 ♦ MS Internet Explorer 4.0 ♦ MS IntelliMouse® ♦ 3 Year Limited Warranty¹ with 1 Year On-site² Service ♦ Lifetime Toll-Free Hardware Phone Support

NEW DELL DIMENSION XPS D333 333MHz PENTIUM® II PROCESSOR FEATURING MMX™ TECHNOLOGY	DELL DIMENSION XPS D300 300MHz PENTIUM II PROCESSOR FEATURING MMX TECHNOLOGY	DELL DIMENSION XPS D266 266MHz PENTIUM II PROCESSOR FEATURING MMX TECHNOLOGY	DELL DIMENSION XPS D233 233MHz PENTIUM II PROCESSOR FEATURING MMX TECHNOLOGY
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NEW DELL DIMENSION XPS D333 333MHz PENTIUM II PROCESSOR FEATURING MMX TECHNOLOGY	DELL DIMENSION XPS D300 300MHz PENTIUM II PROCESSOR FEATURING MMX TECHNOLOGY	DELL DIMENSION XPS D266 266MHz PENTIUM II PROCESSOR FEATURING MMX TECHNOLOGY	DELL DIMENSION XPS D233 233MHz PENTIUM II PROCESSOR FEATURING MMX TECHNOLOGY
Common features listed above plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 128MB SDRAM Memory 9.1GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive (9.5ms) 1200HS 19" Monitor (17.9" v.i.s., .26dp) NEW Diamond Permedia 2 8MB AGP Video Card 32X Max[^] Variable CD-ROM Drive Sound Blaster AWE64 Value Sound Card Altec Lansing ACS-295 Speakers with Subwoofer Dell Quiet Key Keyboard 	Common features listed above plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 64MB SDRAM Memory 6.4GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive (9.5ms) 1000TX 17" Trinitron Monitor (15.9" v.i.s., .26dp) STB nVidia 4MB AGP Video Card NEW DVD Multimedia Subsystem: DVD-ROM Drive and Decoder Card Sound Blaster AWE64 Value Sound Card Altec Lansing ACS-295 Speakers with Subwoofer NEW Dell Comfort Key Keyboard 	Common features listed above plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 64MB SDRAM Memory 6.4GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive (9.5ms) 1000TX 17" Trinitron Monitor (15.9" v.i.s., .26dp) STB nVidia 4MB AGP Video Card 32X Max[^] Variable CD-ROM Drive Sound Blaster AWE64 Value Sound Card Altec Lansing ACS-295 Speakers with Subwoofer Iomega Zip 100MB Internal Drive NEW Dell Comfort Key Keyboard 	Common features listed above plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 32MB SDRAM Memory 4.3GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive (9.5ms) 1000LS 17" Monitor (15.9" v.i.s.) STB nVidia 4MB AGP Video Card 32X Max[^] Variable CD-ROM Drive Sound Blaster AWE64 Value Sound Card Altec Lansing ACS-90 Speakers Iomega Zip 100MB Internal Drive with One Cartridge Dell Quiet Key Keyboard
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- Stereo Speakers with 3D Surround Sound and Yamaha Software Wavetable
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- 64MB SDRAM Memory
- 4GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive
- 128-bit Graphics Accelerator with 65K Colors at 1024x768
- Stereo Speakers with 3D Surround Sound and Yamaha Software Wavetable
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- 6.9 Pounds*

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- 48MB SDRAM Memory
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- 6.4 Pounds*

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36 Mos.

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DELL INSPIRON 3000 M200ST 200MHz PENTIUM PROCESSOR WITH MMX TECHNOLOGY

Common features listed above plus:

- 12.1" SVGA Active Matrix TFT Display
- 32MB SDRAM Memory
- 2.1GB ATA Hard Drive
- 128-bit Graphics Accelerator with 16 Million Colors at 800x600
- Stereo Speakers with 3D Surround Sound and Yamaha Software Wavetable
- MS Office 97 Small Business Edition
- 6.4 Pounds*

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Common features listed above plus:

- 64MB ECC EDO Memory
- 4GB Ultra-Wide SCSI-3 Hard Drive (7200 rpm)
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- 6 Drive Bays: 3 External 5.25"/3 Internal 3.5"
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DESKTOP APPLICATIONS continued

Top Pick

Database
Microsoft Access 97

The Buzz

Lotus's \$105 Approach 97 is easier to use, but only Access 97 lets you publish live data to the Web. It's also faster.

The Stats*

\$339, Windows 95 or Windows NT 3.51, 12MB to 16MB RAM. (800) 426-9400. See Mar. 1997, page 171.



FINANCE SOFTWARE

Share the Wealth: Yet another reason to fire your CPA: This summer, QuickBooks Pro 5.0 gains support for multiple users.

Top Pick

Personal Finance Manager
Intuit Quicken Deluxe 98

The Buzz

This is one upgrade you don't want to miss. New to this version are improved online bill paying, investment advice, and research.

The Stats*

\$59, Windows 3.1 or 95, 8MB RAM, 14.4Kbps modem, CD-ROM drive. (800) 446-8848. See Dec. 1997, page 159.

Business Accounting
Intuit QuickBooks 5.0

You don't need to be a bean counter to appreciate this accountant-in-a-box.

\$99, 486 CPU, 8MB RAM, 34MB hard disk space. (800) 446-8848. See this issue, page 215.

Tax Software
Intuit TurboTax Deluxe

Keep more of what's coming to you—and the IRS honest—with this painless tax manager.

\$50, Windows 3.1 or 95. (800) 446-8848. See Feb. 1998, page 103.



NETWORK SOFTWARE

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Top Pick

Network Operating System
Microsoft Windows NT Server 4.0

The Buzz

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The Stats*

\$809 (NT Server with five clients). (800) 426-9400. See Jan. 1997, page 185.

Groupware
Novell GroupWise 5.2

Share everything you always wanted to—and nothing you don't—with this powerful groupware solution.

Starting at \$718 for five clients. (800) 453-1267. See Jan. 1998, page 227.

Small-Office Network Server
Microsoft BackOffice Small Business Server

Everything you need to set up a network, complete with e-mail, an intranet, Web hosting, and network monitoring.

\$1,499 for five clients, 100MHz Pentium, 64MB RAM, 2GB hard disk space. (800) 426-9400. See Dec. 1997, page 122.

E-mail
Qualcomm Eudora Pro 3.0

The top choice in stand-alone e-mail clients. It's a godsend if you juggle more than one account.

\$29 for single user, Windows 95 or Windows NT, Internet access. (800) 238-3672. See Jan. 1998, page 227.

LAN Management Tool
Intel LANdesk Management Suite

A network manager's dream. One utility gives you instant feedback on the network and everything connected to it.

\$45 to \$50 per node for 100 nodes, Windows 95 or NT. (800) 538-3373. See Jan. 1998, page 227.



PERSONAL PRODUCTIVITY SOFTWARE

Not a Hard Sell: GoldMine keeps tabs on clients; SalesLogix tracks your sales. Get a free version of SalesLogix at www.saleslogix.com.

Top Pick

Contact Manager
GoldMine Software GoldMine 4.0

The Buzz

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The Stats*

\$895 for five users, Windows 95 or NT 4.0, 16MB RAM. (800) 654-3526. See this issue, page 124.

Document Manager
Visioneer PaperPort Deluxe 5.1

Storing images and documents is a snap. Includes drag-and-drop links to all your applications.

\$79, Windows 95 or NT, 8MB RAM. (800) 787-7007. See Jan. 1998, page 210.

*ESTIMATED STREET PRICE.

Trying to get your head around

AGP?



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So, when Intel launched AGP, who else would you expect to be leading the way with fully-implemented AGP solutions except ATI?

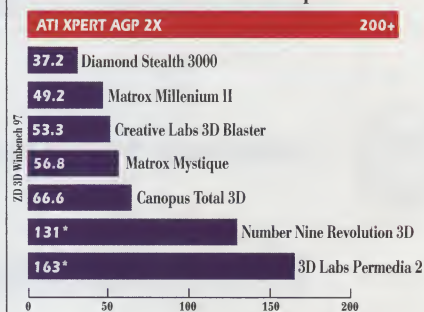
ATI delivers all the benefits of AGP right now.

Offering performance up to 4 times faster than other AGP solutions, ATI is the only graphics vendor currently supporting AGP Texturing capability recommended in Intel's AGP specification. ATI's fully-implemented AGP solution achieves higher quality, state-of-the-art 3D graphics, with even richer (hi-res) textures for greater detail, more textures for richer scenes and enhanced performance.

And ATI's XPERT graphic board family, powered by 3D RAGE PRO, also supports the fastest AGP protocol, AGP 2X.

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AGP 3D Performance Comparison



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3D Performance Comparison graph: Tested on Pentium II MMX-266MHz/32MB/512 cache/Windows95-OSR2 Test Mode: 640x480x16bpp@75Hz - Tested using Driver Version: ATI XPERT AGP 2X 4.10B8H+/Diamond Stealth 3000 4.03.00.3205/Matrox Millennium II 4.03.3600/3D Blaster 4.02.020/Matrox Mystique 4.03.00.3410/Canopus 4.03.00.9001 *Reported results.

Infotlink 164 at: www.pccomputing.com/infotlink

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PERSONAL PRODUCTIVITY SOFTWARE continued

Top Pick

Project Manager
Microsoft Project 98

Scheduler

Lotus Organizer 97 GS

The Buzz

A beefed-up version of an old favorite lets you tackle larger, more complex projects. More Web integration is a plus.

Keep your schedule—and everything else in your life—in check. The Web Calendar lets you manage your life online.

The Stats*

\$469, Windows 95 or NT 3.51, 20MB to 40MB hard disk space. (800) 426-9400. See Jan. 1998, page 209.

\$79, Windows 95. (800) 346-1305. See Jan. 1998, page 213.



REFERENCE AND ENTERTAINMENT CDs

Top Pick

Business Reference
Rand McNally Business Traveler's Suite

Home Reference

TravRoute Door-to-Door CoPilot

Game

id Software Quake II

Entertainment

Valley Entertainment Eve: The Music and Art Adventure

Take Cover: That trembling you feel is the Quake sequel. That twitch in your legs is the onset of wanderlust. Want more? See CD-Ron (page 162).

The Buzz

The best way, short of a private jet, to get from city to city. It also directs you to businesses, hotels, and restaurants.

Don't get lost on your vacation. Here's a GPS you can talk to and it talks back. Missed a turn? CoPilot replots the route.

It's back! And this version of the over-shoulder shooter is no disappointment. New graphics, levels, and monsters!

A romp through music, art, and a bit of adventure with music man extraordinaire Peter Gabriel.

The Stats*

\$59, Windows 95. (800) 671-5006. See Jan. 1998, page 213.

\$299, Windows 95. (888) 872-8768. See Dec. 1997, page 336.

\$55 list price, Windows 95. (800) 477-3650. See Dec. 1997, page 308.

\$40 list price, Windows 95 and Macintosh. (800) 357-5376. See Jan. 1998, page 213.



GRAPHICS SOFTWARE

Top Pick

Presentation Graphics
Microsoft PowerPoint 97

Personal Desktop Publisher
Design Intelligence i publish 2.0

Professional Desktop Publisher
Adobe PageMaker 6.5

Business Graphics
CorelDraw 8

Personal Photo Editor
Microsoft Picture It 2.0

Professional Photo Editor
Adobe Photoshop 4.0

Illustration Software
Adobe Illustrator 7.0

The Buzz

Spend less time learning the software and more time making your point. Best perk: Share your presentations on the Web.

Turn your documents into snazzy paper publications or instant presentations with the push of a button. Build Web pages too.

Get your documents on the Web. PageMaker converts any graphic and text to HTML for quick online posting.

Whether you design professional ad campaigns or just like to sketch, this is the premier all-in-one graphics toolkit.

Have fun with those shoeboxes of old photos: Edit them, store them, or publish them to the Web.

A digital darkroom for your PC. New to version 4.0 are MMX hooks and built-in Web smarts.

Illustrator's back with a face-lift, improved features, and flawless integration with Macintosh files and other Adobe apps.

The Stats*

\$339, Windows 95, NT, or 3.51, 26MB to 58MB hard disk space. (800) 426-9400. See Jan. 1998, page 214.

\$99 list price, Windows 95 and NT. (888) 278-2547. See Jan. 1998, page 217.

\$550, Windows 95 or NT, 8MB to 16MB RAM, 26MB hard disk space. (800) 422-3623. See Jan. 1998, page 217.

\$440 (\$220 upgrade), 486 CPU, Windows 95 or NT 4.0, 16MB RAM. (800) 772-6735. See Dec. 1997, page 170.

\$55, Windows 95 or NT, 16MB RAM, 1MB VRAM, 90MB hard disk space. (800) 426-9400. See Jan. 1998, page 223.

\$550, 486 CPU, Windows 95, NT, or 3.x, 16MB RAM, 25MB hard disk space. (800) 492-3623. See Jan. 1998, page 218.

\$595 list price, Windows 95 or NT 4.0, 16MB RAM, 25MB hard disk space. (800) 649-3875. See Jan. 1998, page 218.

*ESTIMATED STREET PRICE UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE.

The FS-7000 Printer Brings Cost Of Ownership To A New Low.

About half a penny.

That's all it costs to print a page with our new, remarkable 28 page per minute network printer, the FS-7000. That's not only a third less than what HP and Lexmark cost, but it's also the lowest cost-per-page in the industry.

The secret is our unique Ecosys™ engine design, which saves you time and money.

The first printer ever to be powered with the 100 MHz Power PC processor, the FS-7000 is one of the fastest printers in its class — four pages a minute faster than the competition.

Complementing this blazing speed is a range of paper-handling options that

is unmatched. With new HTTP Server technology, you can also work on a standard web browser to pull the EcoLAN 1000E's home page, which lets you change printer server configuration directly. These are just



Kyocera has the lowest cost-per-page in the industry.

a few of the reasons why you should find out more about the new FS-7000. It brings the cost of ownership to a new low, while it brings user satisfaction to a new high.

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Infolink 127 at: www.pccomputing.com/infolink





TOOLS AND UTILITIES

Top Pick

Windows 95 System Utility

Symantec Norton Utilities 3.0 for Windows 95

Windows NT System Utility

Symantec Norton Utilities 2.0 for Windows NT

Antivirus Software

Symantec Norton AntiVirus 4.0 for Windows 95

OCR Software

Caere OmniPage Pro 8.0

File Utility

Inso Corp. Quick View Plus 4.5

Remote-Control Software

Traveling Software LapLink 7.5 for Windows 95

Application Development Tool

Microsoft Visual Basic 5.0 Professional Edition

Stop! Don't let Norton Utilities' Registry bug trash your system. Download the latest fix at www.symantec.com/nu/nu3fix.html.

The Buzz

Spot system trouble before it spots your data. Also in this update to the old classic: virus checking and crash protection.

Keep your servers and workstations in check with the first complete set of system utilities for Windows NT.

Stops infections before they happen—it even scans Internet downloads. Plus, free automatic program updates.

Never retype again. OmniPage converts scanned pages into editable text or publishes them to your Web site.

Superman has X-ray vision for peering through walls. You have Quick View Plus for peering into files.

Keep your notebook and desktop PCs on speaking terms: Sync files via a cable or dial your desktop from the road.

Visualize better custom apps. This version adds dockable toolbars and the ability to edit multiple projects at once.

The Stats*

\$79, Windows 95, 8MB RAM, 35MB hard disk space. (800) 441-7234. See this issue, page 226.

\$99, Windows NT 4.0, 16MB RAM. (800) 441-7234. See June 1997, page 130.

\$49, Windows 95, 8MB RAM, 12MB hard disk space. (800) 441-7234. See Jan. 1998, page 224.

\$499, Windows 95 or NT 4.0, 12MB RAM, 30MB hard disk space. (800) 736-5735. See Nov. 1997, page 172.

\$49, Windows 95, 4MB RAM, 6MB hard disk space. (800) 333-1395. See Jan. 1998, page 224.

\$149, 386 CPU, 8MB RAM, 7MB hard disk space. (800) 343-8080. See Jan. 1997, page 156.

\$499, Windows 95 or Windows NT, 30MB to 220MB hard disk space. (800) 426-9400. See June 1997, page 125.



WEB BROWSERS AND UTILITIES

Top Pick

Web Browser

Microsoft Internet Explorer 4.0

Internet Utility

Vital Signs Software Net.Medic

Newsgroup Reader

Forté Agent 1.5

Security/Encryption

Pretty Good Privacy PGP for Personal Privacy 5.5

No Contest: First Netscape unbundled the browser from the suite—now it's considering offering it for free. Nice idea, but is it too little too late?

The Buzz

Microsoft's browser includes most of what you'll find in Netscape's. Download a free copy at www.microsoft.com.

Stop guessing why your Web connection is so slow. Let this Internet sleuth show you where your troubles lie.

Sort the gems from the junk with this smart newsreader. For a gratis pared-down version, check out Free Agent.

You wouldn't let a stranger read your mail. Why take a chance with e-mail? Secure it from snoops with PGP.

The Stats*

Free, Windows 95 or Windows NT. (800) 426-9400. See Jan. 1998, page 117.

\$49, (888) 984-8259. See Jan. 1998, page 237.

\$29, Windows 3.1, Windows 95, or Windows NT. www.forteinc.com. Stay tuned.

\$79, \$59 for download, public-key cryptography, digital signatures. (888) 747-3011. See Oct. 1997, page 172.



WEB SEARCH ENGINES AND SERVICES

Top Pick

Search Engine

Wired Digital HotBot

Web Accelerator

PeakSoft PeakJet 1.5

*ESTIMATED STREET PRICE.

Click This: PeakSoft's PeakJet speeds your surf time by anticipating your next click. PeakSoft's NetMagnet adds browsing and search tools.

The Buzz

So the neon interface is a little obnoxious. It still ferrets out hard-to-find answers in record time.

Give your Web connection a shot in the arm. PeakJet looks ahead, loading Web text and links *before* you need them.

The Stats*

Free, www.hotbot.com. See Jan. 1998, page 238.

\$29, Windows 95. (888) 377-7325. See Jan. 1998, page 237.

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The most
important feature to
look for when buying
an LCD projector...

SONY



At Sony, we've taken the quality and reliability for which the Sony name is known and incorporated those features in our LCD projectors. Whether you need SVGA, XGA, SXGA or VGA, Sony's LCD projectors deliver five big advantages that will make a vivid difference in your next presentation: 1) extra bright images; 2) extremely consistent, uniform images; 3) durable yet lightweight construction; 4) ease of set up; and 5) reliability in the form of a three year parts and labor warranty on every model*. Turn on our VPL-S500U SVGA model or any of five models in our family of LCD projectors and make your presentation with confidence. Call 1-800-472-7669 extension LCD, or visit us at our website at <http://www.sony.com/professional>.

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Effective Presentations"

SONY

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VPL-W400Q Widescreen
Video LCD Projector



VPL-V800Q VGA
System LCD Projector



VPL-V500Q VGA
Portable LCD Projector



VPL-S800U SVGA
System LCD Projector



VPL-S500U SVGA
Portable LCD Projector

WEB SEARCH ENGINES AND SERVICES continued

Top Pick	The Buzz	The Stats*
National Online Service America Online	Still the world's most popular and useful online service. Can't stand the wait? Sign up with an ISP.	\$9.95 per month for unlimited AOL access, \$19.95 per month for unlimited access. (800) 827-6364. See Jan. 1998, page 238.
National Internet Service Provider UUNet	With more connection options than most, UUNet serves up all the bandwidth your business needs. Just in: UUFax.	\$30 per month for 25 hours, Web hosting starts at \$300 per month. (800) 488-6383. See Jan. 1998, page 240.
News Service Wall Street Journal Interactive Edition	Get the full contents of the best business daily plus company research, real-time stock quotes, and portfolio tracking.	\$49 per year, \$29 per year for <i>Wall Street Journal</i> subscribers. www.wsj.com. See Jan. 1998, page 240.
Financial Service E*Trade	Reason No. 57 to give your broker the boot: E*Trade delivers all the same services without the shiny suit.	\$14.95 per trade for up to 5,000 shares. www.etrade.com. See Jan. 1998, page 242.



WEB COMMUNICATIONS

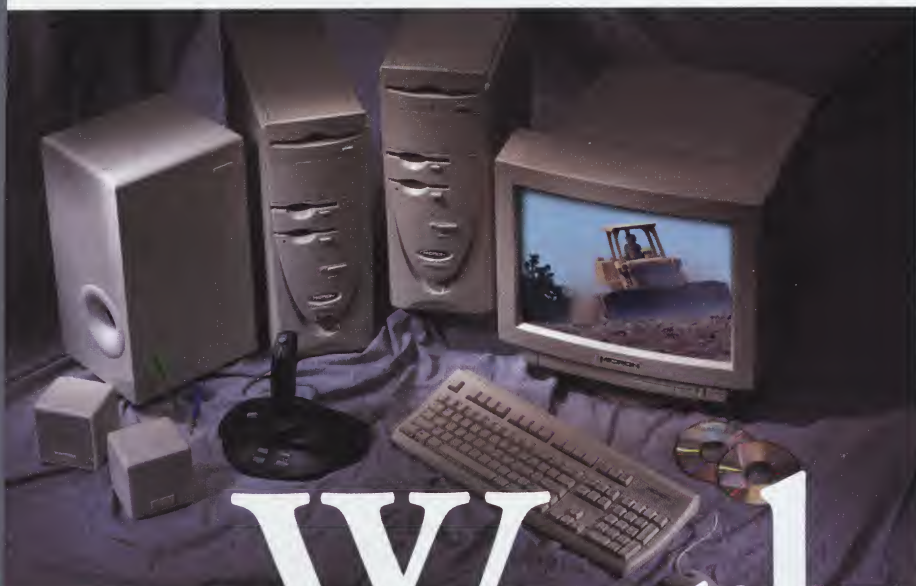
Top Pick	The Buzz	The Stats*
Internet E-mail Microsoft Outlook Express	The best e-mail manager also happens to be the one you get for free with Internet Explorer. We'll take it.	Free, Windows 95 or NT, Internet access. (800) 426-9400. Stay tuned.
Internet Phone Microsoft NetMeeting 2.1	Have virtual face-to-face meetings without breaking out breath mints. The best part? It's free with Internet Explorer.	Free, Windows 95 or Windows NT. (800) 426-9400. Stay tuned.
Internet Fax FaxSav Internet Suite of Services	Save big on international faxing—pay just \$1.29 per page to fax to Papua New Guinea.	Free for software, 15 cents per page for domestic faxes. (800) 828-7115. See Sept. 1997, page 188.
Internet Videoconferencing White Pine Software CU-SeeMe 3.1	Get the newest version of the best videoconferencing software around, now with standards support.	\$79, \$69 download at www.cuseeme.com. (800) 241-7463. See Jan. 1998, page 237.



WEB DEVELOPMENT TOOLS

Top Pick	The Buzz	The Stats*
Web Publisher Microsoft FrontPage 98	The only Web publishing site that wraps hand-holding wizards around powerful site creation and management tools.	\$149 (\$59 upgrade), Windows 95 or Windows NT 4.0. (800) 426-9400. See Nov. 1997, page 189.
Web Server Software Microsoft Internet Information Server 3.0	The fastest NT Web server software you can find, plus the bonus of a free version of NT Server 4.0.	Free for NT Server users, Windows NT 4.0, 486 CPU, 16MB RAM. (800) 426-9400. See Jan. 1998, page 246.
Site Management Utility Tetranet Software Linkbot 3.5	If you have just one site maintenance utility, this should be it. Watch for Wisebot, a task automation utility.	\$249, Windows 95 or NT. (888) 245-5550. See Jan. 1998, page 242.
Commerce Server Microsoft Site Server Enterprise Edition 2.0	Everything you need to serve up a super-selling site on the Web in a matter of hours. Really.	\$4,999, Windows NT 4.0. (800) 426-9400. See Jan. 1998, page 246.
Web Animation Software Macromedia Flash 2	Want to get your Web site moving without making it too big? Flash 2 creates interactive animations in as little as 3K.	\$299, Windows 95 or Windows NT, 486 CPU, 16MB RAM. (800) 945-9075. See Jan. 1998, page 244.
Java Development Visual Café for Java 2.0 Web Development	Build applets any way you want. Get into brute-force scripting, or crank out applets in minutes using Café's visual tools.	\$99, Windows 95 or NT, 90MHz Pentium, 24MB RAM, 30MB hard disk space. (800) 441-7234. See Jan. 1998, page 244.

*ESTIMATED STREET PRICE.



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We like to think we build some
of the best computer products
you can buy. It's nice when
experts think so, too.





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Powerdigm
Xsu
Sept. '97

Millennia
Xku 300
Sept. '97

Millennia
Pro2 200
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Millennia
Pro2 200
Sept. '97

TransPort
Xke 166
Aug. '97

Customer
Service,
Support &
Reliability

TransPort
Xke
Oct. '97

Total Solutions

Good, solid workmanship. That's what you'll get from Micron Electronics. And it shows. Industry experts have extolled the virtues of Micron PCs across all our product lines. From our many *PC Magazine* Editor's Choice Awards to the recent *PC Computing* MVP awards for the Micron™ TransPort® VLX portable and the Vetix™ server. No matter what your needs — portables, desktops, workstations or servers — Micron has the industry reviews, recommendations and awards to back us up 100%.

Working overtime. Behind every Micron PC is our award-winning team of customer service and technical support experts. And they *are* experts. In fact, readers of *Home PC* recently ranked Micron number one in overall reliability and technical support. You can call Micron toll-free anytime, day or night, for the industry's best technical support — support that will always keep your Micron PC up and running.

Work the numbers yourself. You'll see we give you the best PC values in the industry. The competition can't compare when it comes to Micron's rare combination of high-performance, latest technology and outstanding reputation for reliability and service. Good, hard work on our part. Good news for you.



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No matter where you go,
a Micron TransPort
paves the way.



Look no further. With 17 industry awards in 1997, the Micron™ TransPort® has made a name for itself as a true desktop performing portable PC. The TransPort XKE has been called "the all-around fastest notebook you can buy"* and for good reason. It boasts a 233MHz or 266MHz Pentium® processor with MMX™ technology and up to 192MB EDO RAM for an incredible, powerful performance. And because it's portable, you can depend on this dynamo everywhere your work or play may take you.

Workhorse portables. Meet your perfect traveling companion. Starting at just \$2,249, the Micron TransPort VLX® is lightweight, powerful and loaded with everything you'll need to get the job done right. It's the latest in our award-winning TransPort line — in fact, its predecessor, the TransPort VLX, shot to the top of the portable heap this year by winning the coveted *PC Computing* 1997 MVP Workhorse Portable Award.

You heard it here first. Dragon NaturallySpeaking Personal voice recognition software is included on all TransPort XKE systems. A Micron-exclusive standard portable feature, this software allows you to create documents just by talking to your computer! Another award-winning product, Dragon NaturallySpeaking recently took home *PC Computing's* Usability Achievement of the Year honor.

What you see is what you get. An active-matrix screen on all Micron TransPort models is enhanced by a high-performance graphics accelerator for incomparable screen images. And with a swappable floppy drive and CD-ROM drive, you'll have more flexibility than ever before. You also have a choice of Microsoft® Windows® 95 or Windows NT® Workstation operating system preinstalled. Road trips shouldn't mean downtime. Call Micron today for the only way to take your power tools on the road — with one of our award-winning TransPort portables.



**Computer Shopper*, Sept. 1997

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HOME *work*

The Micron Millennia is the
ultimate desktop for all
your home needs.



Work hard, play hard. Get the job done faster and have more fun with help from the Micron™ Millennia® family. Earning more than 55 awards and recommendations in 1997 alone, the Millennia desktop offers unbeatable performance, power and multimedia applications for your entire family!

A force to be reckoned with. The incomparable Millennia XKU is "a standout performer," according to *PC Magazine* editors. And we like standing out. Our award-winning Millennia XKU features the latest in the Intel Pentium® II processor and chip set technology, so you'll get more power for your most demanding applications. And, you'll get the added bonus of an accelerated graphics port!

Nothing run-of-the mill here. Our flexible Millennia MME — the first desktop to incorporate both MMX™ technology and SDRAM — delivers better multimedia results than ever, and the USB features give you high-speed connectivity.

We caught the attention of the editors at *Home Office Computing*, who said the Millennia MME "costs less than you might think and runs circles around most other MMX-based systems."

You'll like the fringe benefits. We custom build your new Millennia system to your exact needs. Add the Fusion 3D™ option on the XKU for awesome DVD technology, a super sound card, incredible graphics and more. Get multimedia sights and sounds that blow the whole family away! And remember, all Millennia models come standard with a 100MB Zip drive for virtually unlimited storage. When you buy certain Millennia systems, you'll get a software bundle of your choice for everyone in your home, and it's included with your purchase. Millennia systems start at \$1,599, so you won't compromise power or price.

Call Micron today — we'll make make you feel right at home!

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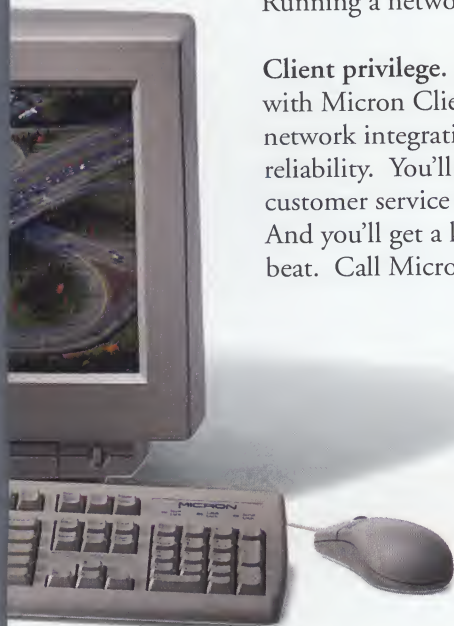


Work together. It's no sweat with Micron's new NetFRAME® entry-level, mid-range and enterprise-level servers. With NetFRAME's award-winning reputation and expertise, we're able to bring custom-configured solutions for every business network. Especially yours.

Enterprising thoughts. If you're ready to network, we've got end-to-end solutions built from the ground up. Hardware. Software. And on-site technical support, if you need it. Our award-winning Micron NetFRAME servers can handle any job, big or small. We work with you to determine exactly what you need — and then we build it just for you. Micron NetFRAME servers cover all your priorities, like scalability, security, and easy maintenance. Start by looking at our entry-level LV2000 server — and get flexibility at a competitive price. Take it one step further with our Micron MV5000 for enterprise features at a mid-range price. We can even preinstall Oracle database software to get your network up and running. Or call about our incomparable enterprise solutions. And get wired for real business.

Mission control. Our network-ready ClientPro® desktop is everything you need in a business PC. Scalable. Reliable. Compatible. ClientPro PCs are custom built for your business network. Plus, Micron's stringent quality standards and top-notch engineering deliver fail-safe remote and local management capabilities. Features such as Wake-On-LAN technology, the open DMI standard and the LANDesk® Client Manager mean you can monitor systems and solve problems on the fly. Running a network has never been easier!

Client privilege. Lower your ownership costs with Micron ClientPro. You'll get easy network integration and outstanding reliability. You'll get award-winning customer service and technical support. And you'll get a limited warranty that's hard to beat. Call Micron — and take the work out of your network.



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The Micron Powerdigm delivers workstation performance for the most discerning tastes.



Power and grace. The Micron™ Powerdigm™ is the definitive workstation for the most astute user. Using Micron's own engineered Samurai™ chip set, the Powerdigm XSU offers the perfect balance of performance, power and value. So perfect, in fact, *PC Magazine* named it the 1997 Workstation of the Year. The Powerdigm XSU "is simply the fastest, most powerful PC I've ever used — the most exciting PC on the planet," says *PC Magazine* guru Jim Seymour.

The logical choice. With more than 400MB per second throughput, rendering drawings and CAD applications is faster than ever. Business finance or high-end applications are incredible, too. With Micron's own Samurai core logic, the Powerdigm workstation delivers 64-bit 66MHz PCI bus, in a system based on Intel architecture and supports dual monitors.

Hard work pays off. None of our competitors even come close. You'll only get this kind of power and performance with the Powerdigm workstation, and you'll get the support and service that comes with the Micron name. Get the Powerdigm. It's a Micron masterpiece.



Business Solutions

NetFRAME® LV2000

Intel 233MHz Pentium® II processor
32MB ECC SDRAM
2GB Ultra Wide SCSI-3 hard drive
Microsoft® Windows NT® Server 4.0 (10-user license)
NOS support (3 incident resolutions/1st year), 7x24

STANDARD FEATURES

Single or dual Intel Pentium II processors
512KB integrated cache in SEC package
ECC SDRAM option (4 DIMM slots)
5 expansion slots: 4 PCI, 1 ISA
Integrated Adaptec PCI Ultra Wide SCSI-3 controller
Intel EtherExpress™ Pro 100 NIC
12X SCSI-2 CD-ROM drive
10 drive bays: 4 external 5.25"/1 external 3.5"/
2 internal 5.25"/3 internal 3.5"
Intel LANDesk® Server Manager v.2.8
Dedicated server technical support, 7x24
5-year/3-year Micron Power™ limited warranty
1-year next-business-day on-site service*

\$3,499

Bus. Lease \$119/mo.

NetFRAME MV5000

Intel 300MHz Pentium II processor
64MB ECC SDRAM
4GB Ultra Wide SCSI-3 hard drive
Microsoft Windows NT Server 4.0 (10-user license)
NOS support (3 incident resolutions/1st year), 7x24

STANDARD FEATURES

Single or dual Intel Pentium II processors
512KB integrated cache in SEC package
Memory: ECC EDO or SDRAM option
9 expansion slots: 6 PCI, 2 ISA, 1 shared ISA/PCI
Dual integrated Symbios Ultra Wide SCSI-3 controllers
Intel EtherExpress™ Pro 100 NIC
Embedded RAID upgrade option
I₂O ready via embedded Intel i960-RD
5 internal, hot-pluggable, hard drive array bays
(Upgradable to 10)
1 (one) 360 watt hot-pluggable power supply standard
(Upgradable to 3 for added redundancy)
Rack Adapter Option
Intel LANDesk Server Manager v.2.8
Dedicated server technical support, 7x24
5-year/3-year Micron Power™ limited warranty
1-year next-business-day on-site service*

\$5,699

Bus. Lease \$181/mo.

*On-site service for NetFRAME LV2000 and MV5000 server is provided by Digital Equipment Corporation and is optional.

**Price excludes monitor.

ClientPro VXE

Intel 166MHz Pentium processor with MMX technology
Microsoft Windows NT Workstation

\$1,149**

Bus. Lease \$40/mo.

ClientPro MRE

Intel 233MHz Pentium processor with MMX™ technology
32MB SDRAM

2.1GB SMART Ultra ATA hard drive
15" Micron 500Lx, .28dp (13.7" display)

512KB pipeline burst cache, DMI compliant,
2MB flash BIOS
Network adapter with Wake-On-LAN technology
24X ATAPI variable speed CD-ROM drive
S3 ViRGE graphics accelerator, 2MB EDO RAM
Intel LANDesk Client Manager available
Advanced hardware monitoring and power management features
Chassis intrusion alert
Microsoft Windows NT Workstation
5-year/3-year Micron Power limited warranty

\$1,599

Bus. Lease \$56/mo.

ClientPro 766Xi

Intel 266MHz Pentium II processor with MMX technology

64MB SDRAM
3.2GB SMART Ultra ATA hard drive
17" Micron 700FGx, .28dp (16" display)

512KB internal L2 secondary cache, DMI compliant, 2MB flash BIOS
32X ATAPI variable speed CD-ROM drive
Network Adapter with Wake-On-LAN technology
4MB AGP 3D video
Creative Labs SoundBlaster™ 16 soundcard w/speakers
Microsoft Windows NT Workstation
Intel LANDesk Client Manager available
Advanced hardware monitoring and power management features
Chassis intrusion alert
5-year/3-year Micron Power limited warranty

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FEATURES AND OPTIONS

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Supports IDE Ultra ATA and multiple Ultra Wide SCSI-3 hard drives
512KB pipeline burst cache, flash BIOS
Memory upgradeable to 1GB ECC SDRAM
3Com Fast EtherNet 10/100 PCI network adapter
12/20X variable speed SCSI CD-ROM drive
Optional support for dual monitors
DMI, software and hardware management support
Wavetable stereo sound with speakers
Microsoft® IntelliMouse™
Microsoft Windows NT® Workstation
5-year/3-year Micron Power™ limited warranty

Powerdigm XSU

Intel 300MHz Pentium® II processor
Samurai™ chip set
Fire GL 1000 pro 8MB 66MHz PCI Open GL
Professional 3D accelerator
4GB Ultra-Wide SCSI-3 hard drive
64MB ECC SDRAM
19" Hitachi SuperScan CM751
(18" display) .26dp monitor

\$4,699

Bus. Lease \$149/mo.

Powerdigm XSU

Dual Intel 300MHz Pentium II processors
Samurai chip set
128MB ECC SDRAM
Fire GL 4000 15MB 3DRAM/16MB CDRAM
4GB Ultra-Wide SCSI-3 hard drive
Iomega 1GB Jaz SCSI drive
21" Hitachi SuperScan CM801
(20" display) .26dp monitor

\$8,308

Bus. Lease \$263/mo.



pentium® II

MICRON POWER WARRANTY

- 5-year limited warranty on microprocessor and main memory
 - 3-year limited parts-only system warranty (1-year for TransPort systems)
 - 1-, 2- or 3-year optional on-site service agreement for Micron desktop and server systems
 - 30 days of free Micron-supplied software support for Micron desktop systems; 3 optional network operating system incident resolutions included for Micron server systems
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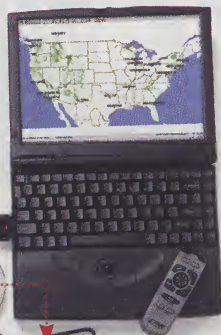
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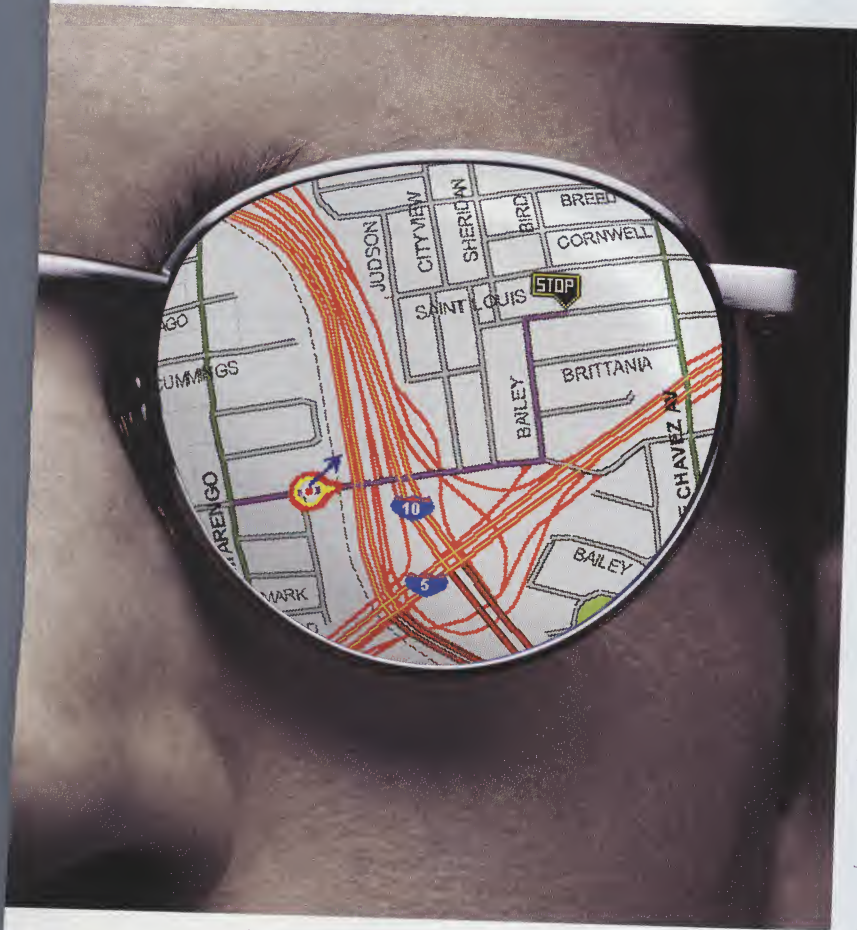
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Windows 95

Guilty!

OK, I admit it. I was wrong. I've been a Microsoft defender for a decade and a half. I still think it's great that we have just one operating system rather than a nutball hodgepodge of incompatible choices, and Word and Excel are pretty good. Gates's troubles with the feds are mostly trumped-up crapola from greedy lawyers, grandstanding techno-illiterate politicians, and Netscape—the one company that's even more arrogant than Microsoft.

Those Redmond millionaires may be

bullies, but I sympathize with a company that's essentially being punished for its success.

Like all of us, I've had my share of troubles with cranky Microsoft software. But today I just switched sides. And it's Windows that put me over the edge.

Slow Burn For the past few hours I've been staring at the monitor of a virgin system as a Windows disk utility *s-l-o-w-l-y* grinds through millions of unused clusters on my hard disk. Windows broke, though the problem has nothing to do with my hard drive, but it wouldn't let me proceed until it finished a plodding disk scan.

In setting up this new PC, I picked a video setting (from an onscreen menu) that was somehow higher than the system could support, and my screen went blank. When this happens, you normally reboot into "Safe Mode," which forces the system into readable VGA resolution. I tried this, but no joy. And the skimpy manuals, endlessly busy tech-support lines, and so-called Web support sites were a time-consuming, useless pain.

So I reinstalled Windows. As the setup process chugged along, it kept stumbling over files where the versions on the Windows CD (remember, this is a brand-new PC out of the box) were older than similarly named files on the hard disk. Each time it asked whether I wanted to overwrite the newer ones



Paul Somerson

Windows is an absurdly complicated usability nightmare. It's a big joke, except that the laugh's on us.

with older copies. What a stupid question—of course not!

Big mistake. When I tried to restart my system, Windows balked, and told me I now had a mishmash of file versions. So I tried to re-install Windows with the older files. But Windows then refused to budge until it did a surface scan of my hard disk, which had practically

no software on it other than Windows. At the very end of the tedious process it flagged bad clusters, and made me hit the Enter key to fix them *one at a time*. After 2,000 (!) mind-numbing Enter key taps, I gave up and propped a manual on the Enter key to keep it pressed down. Then it went into an endless loop looking for Plug and Play devices. When I eventually re-re-reinstalled it, half the peripherals didn't work. What a mess. Windows is the ultimate tar baby—the more you struggle the deeper you get until you're hopelessly ensnared.

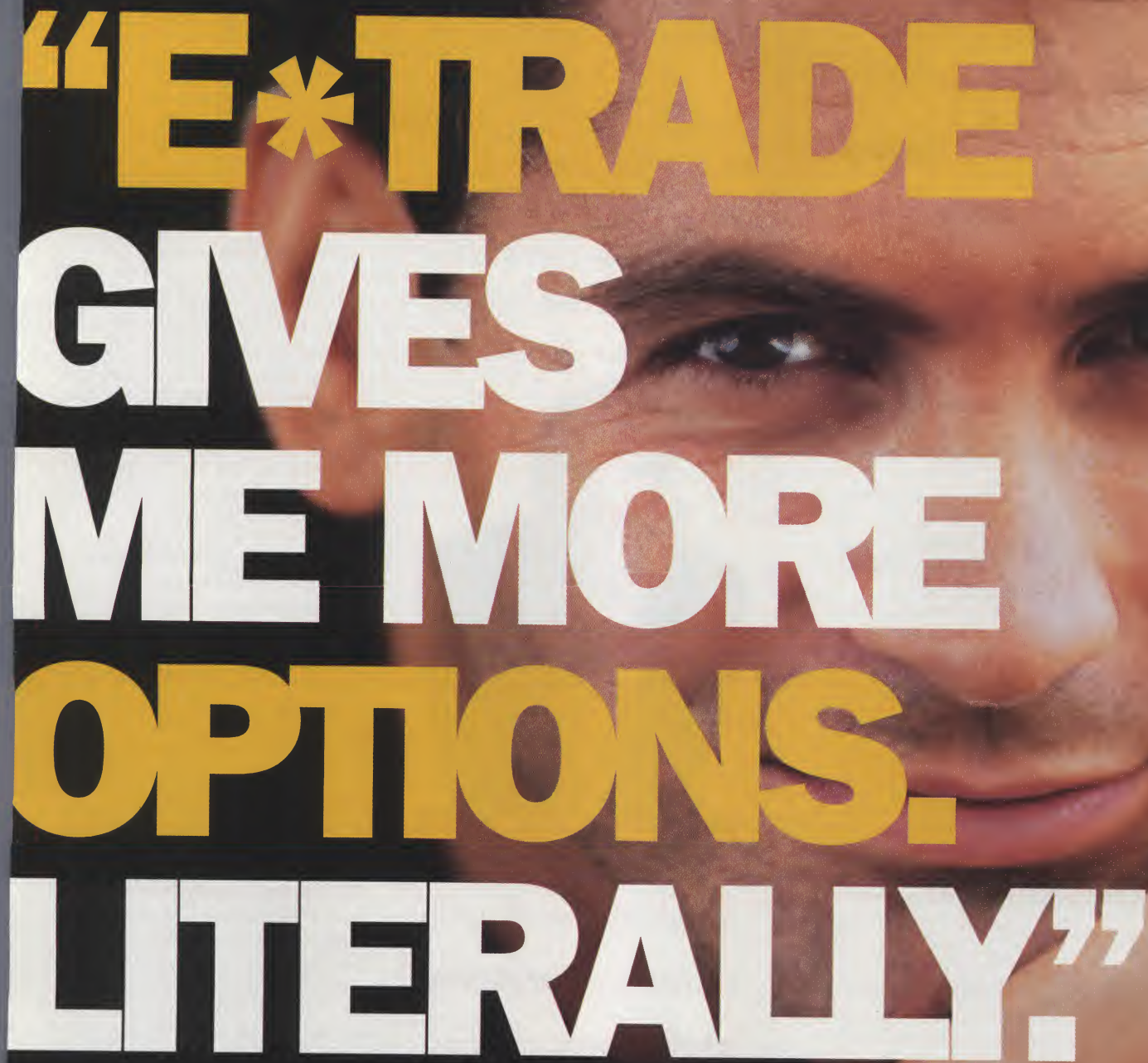
Helpless I'm not alone. We recently asked you to tell us your PC horror stories. And you flooded us with venom-dripping tales of woe, almost all of them about Windows. Windows is an utter piece of junk. It is a big joke, except that the laugh's on us. It is an absurdly overcomplicated usability nightmare. And there is no cheap or easy or fast way to get help.

This is nuts. *It really shouldn't be this hard.* Microsoft netted around \$4 billion from OS sales last year—you'd think they could spend a few bucks fixing it all. But it's more likely that O. J. will nab the real killer on the back nine at Pebble Beach than that Microsoft will voluntarily banish the heartache it puts users through.

Nobody wants the government to dictate what can and can't be in our operating system (although a browser *should* be a part of any OS). And breaking up Microsoft like AT&T doesn't gain much. But something has to make Microsoft more responsible and responsive to the needs of the average user. Unfortunately it won't be competitors. The only thing left is the ugly brute force of the feds.

Go get 'em, Janet.

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Spam This

Indulge in a fantasy: All the Internet's junk e-mailers—spammers—are locked in a room, ankles shackled, dangling upside down. What would you do to them? *Umm*, never mind. As everyone knows, spam is a nuisance. Who hasn't arrived at the office to see six messages proclaiming "Make \$\$\$ Now!" "Hot Babes Want You!!!" or "Backstage Pass to Madame Xena's House of Pain." But spam is also a tyranny. It chugs the Net.

It costs you money. And it elbows out other forms of e-commerce.

On Your Knees Think that's overstating things? Netcom, one of the largest commercial ISPs in the country, was crippled for nearly a day last year. Concentric Network, another goliath, couldn't deliver e-mail to its members for 18 hours. CompuServe mail servers were knocked out of commission, delaying message delivery for two hours. As anyone who hangs a shingle in cyberspace knows, an hour of lost time can cost you your business.

None of these incidents was the work of rogue hackers. Junk mail brought the systems down. Just how much spam gets routed around the globe—and the amounts of money its purveying weasels rake in—is hard to come by. America Online estimates that 30 percent of its e-mail is spam. Anyone who visits Usenet newsgroups now gets treated to a wasteland of off-topic commercial messages—four out of five, by some estimates.

Businesses and ISPs are spending millions for extra bandwidth, phone lines, personnel, and software to keep junk e-mail from burning down the barn. Meanwhile, consumers—by droves—are abandoning the Web, fed up with the delays. Increasingly, it's more convenient to hop in your car or dial a toll-free number than to buy over the Net.

For spammers, the economics are undeniably sweet: no postage, no printing, no envelopes to lick. And unlike conventional lists, e-mail addresses are cheap and easy to come by—software bots routinely troll directory services, plucking addresses out of the ether for free. Pennsylvania-based CyberPromotions spews 15 to



Taylor & Jerome

**The economics of
spam are undeniably
sweet: no postage,
no printing, no
envelopes to lick.**

20 million commercial come-ons a day at less than one one-hundredth the cost of snail mail. In 1996 the company grossed some \$800,000; in 1997 it expected to snag nearly \$4 million.

Fight Back There's no stopping the stuff—not as the Net currently exists. But you should feel a civic duty to fight back, first and foremost by keeping junk mail from reaching you. Better e-mail programs have filtering features that automatically delete messages from specific addresses or

that contain \$, !!!, or XXX in the subject line. Other programs patrol incoming mail against a list of more than 1,500 known spammers. The best is Spam Attack Pro (www.softwiz.com/html/spam_attack_pro.html).

Ultimately, your best bet is to stay off mass-mailing lists in the first place. Protect your privacy by pulling personal information out of your browser. If you're posting to newsgroups, configure your newsreader to insert nonsense words in your reply address: SPAMTHISLOSER@yourdomain.com. If you're a member of America Online or CompuServe, change your screen name or Internet alias—or register a second name.

But don't expect miracles from any of these efforts. Spammers now use automated programs to harvest e-mail addresses from newsgroups and Web pages. They create false return addresses to elude e-mail blocking software. Some even mask their messages behind the return addresses of unsuspecting businesses.

Two proposals in Congress would bar e-mailers from using false addresses. They would require marketers to remove your address on request. A third bill, by Chris Smith (R-NJ), would treat junk e-mail like advertising faxes: permissible only if the spammer receives a request for it. No action is likely until later this year. And none of these bills has any force against spammers situated offshore.

So what is the solution? Should Congress require ISPs to tax spammers, the receipts of which would go into a fund to expand the Net's capacity? Perhaps users willing to receive spam should be given free online time, while the rest of us are left alone. Or maybe it's time to get serious about building a second Internet—one that would balance the free-speech rights of spammers with the privacy rights of users.

What's your solution? Spam us at taylor&jerome@zd.com.

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Talk About Barbie

People are always complaining that they can't find anything on the Web. It's not difficult, and I'll prove it by walking you through a typical search for an arbitrary topic. Let's make it Barbie. I want to find out the history of the doll and get some idea of what my three-year-old's collection is worth. I choose Barbie because I imagine there's way too much information and the process will be a mess.

But I don't expect to uncover a scandal!

After a false start leading to various porno sites because I enter *Barbi* instead of *Barbie*, I get on track with the keywords *Barbie* and *Dolls* and *Collection* using a simple HotBot search. Bingo! 4,400 returns, mostly doll stores.

First Blush From here I search for a site with a serious list of links, wading through some wacky stuff, getting insight into female sociology but not the information I want. Then I see "Barbie doll books and links to information and images of Barbie clothes, dresses..." The list is small but promising, so I continue here until it runs out of steam and I'm forced back to a search engine.

The first interesting link list usually leads to the mother lode. One site, www.beaucoms-barbies.com, is a combination vanity page, Barbie collector page. Another is called Cool Barbie Links. I find a lot of excellent information there, including the Mattel Barbie site.

It's amusing how seldom product manufacturers' sites appear on a search engine list. But the Mattel site www.barbie.com is only too obvious. It's a gold mine of information; it even has an audio file with the original Barbie theme from 1959. There's an official club and more stuff than I'd ever want to know about Barbie. The song is a hoot. If you have a little girl going through a Barbie phase, send her here.

But I'm not done yet, since I've spent only 15 minutes so far and I budget one hour for online searches—there are always obscure but worthwhile sites to discover. So I go back to the Beaucoms main page, where I learn about a lawsuit in which



John C. Dvorak

Irreparable injury to Mattel? This lawsuit seems to exemplify horrid corporate bullying.

Mattel is suing *Miller's Magazine for Barbie Doll Collectors*. Barbie collectors are hopping mad over this. A link to Jessica's Totally Barbie is supposed to clarify the situation.

Pink Anger Arrgh!! Jessica's Totally Barbie is a dead link. But I look at the URL and backspace the dot HTM file from the URL to go up a level. There's Jessica's home page, but nothing about the Mattel suit. On the Beaucoms page, I discover a movement called the Pink Tidal Wave, and click

on its Pink Anger Home Page.

It's right off the AOL server at members.aol.com/pinkanger. Link after link about Mattel vs. Miller including a copy of the complaint. It appears that Barbara and Dan Miller, who produce *Miller's Magazine*, are being sued into oblivion for being critics while supporting the Barbie doll scene. According to the suit, "Each issue of this magazine is replete with articles, photographs and captions which infringe, disparage and/or dilute Mattel's trademarks, copyrights..." It goes on.

This document had some interesting Mattel history that finished my initial search—including the stat that more than 1 billion Barbies have been sold. Wow. Meanwhile, this lawsuit seems to exemplify horrid corporate bullying. Most ludicrous is the comment that the magazine has done "irreparable injury" to Mattel. Oh? Sales must be plummeting!

According to the collectors this magazine does little more than comment on various designs and marketing schemes while promoting the doll itself. It's called criticism. This is still the USA, isn't it? Mattel says the Millers are ripping them off and claim unfair competition, among other things. To me this kind of legal action is unconscionable and represents the worst aspects of corporate America. (Check out www.cyberberramp.net/~lfurlet/protest.htm and search *Mattel vs. Miller* for more information.)

Now I'll have to get the magazine to see what this is all about. Meanwhile, my search is over. And that's how the Web works. I start with a simple challenge. Worm my way into a solution, then find out something I don't want to know. Curiously, and with scant information, I now hate Mattel and may dissuade my daughter from buying any more Barbies. Welcome to the new information age.

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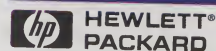


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Some undeserving colleague of yours has been all smiles for the last two months because of the new 300MHz Pentium II on his desk. Want to deflate that smarmy grin? Mention the word *Deschutes*.

No sooner had Intel introduced its 300MHz chip than it unveiled a faster, entirely revamped packaging of the Pentium II, code-named Deschutes. More than just an uptick in

megahertz, Deschutes promises speedier performance across a wide range of applications. And it guarantees to further baffle already confused system buyers selecting among the menagerie of processors on the market.

PC Computing's Performance Labs put a quintet of top-tier 333MHz Deschutes systems through their paces. As expected, when we tested systems from Hewlett-Packard, Dell, Gateway, NEC, and Compaq we saw a modest

increase in performance. But to the bemusement of current Pentium II owners (see *smarmy grin* above), we saw virtually no increase in price. Deschutes PCs won't get a big kick in speed until Intel releases its BX chip set for motherboards by this summer, which adds a 100MHz PCI bus. No matter: As price-performance goes, Deschutes is today's sweet spot.

Hop the Bus Nothing changes in the CPU's core instruction set from the current

Pentium II. But the new packaging introduces several new ways to goose performance from the existing chip, depending on which version you choose. There will be two flavors of Deschutes, drably dubbed Slot 1 and Slot 2.

Most stand-alone systems and notebooks running business apps will come with a Slot 1 Deschutes; servers and high-end workstations will ship with the Slot 2 version. The unfortunate designation of



Hewlett-Packard HP Vectra VL



Verdict: The screaming performance will seduce you—the built-in network smarts will seduce your network manager.

Pros: Outstanding performance; sizzling base price.

Cons: Not the least expensive ticket to 333MHz.

Features As Tested: 333MHz Pentium II CPU, 512K L2 cache, 64MB of SDRAM, 6.4GB hard drive, 24X CD-ROM drive, Matrox Millennium II video accelerator with 8MB of RAM, 16-bit audio, 10/100Base-T network interface, 17-inch monitor.

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Dell Dimension XPS D333



Verdict: A PC rarin' for big apps.

Pros: Dressed to the nines; great dollar value.

Cons: Slowest NT performance; no network card.

Features As Tested: 333MHz Pentium II CPU, 512K L2 cache, 64MB of SDRAM, 9.1GB hard drive, DVD drive, STB nVidia video accelerator with 4MB of RAM, Altec Lansing ACS-495 surround-sound audio with subwoofer, 56Kbps fax modem, 17-inch monitor.

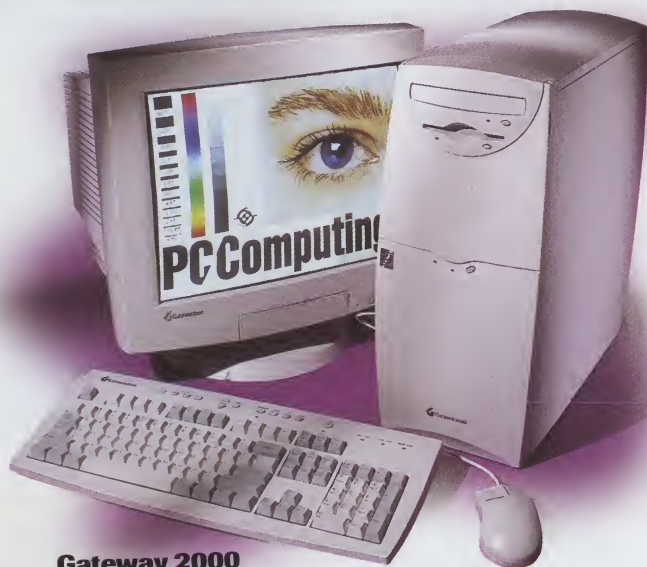
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Guide to PC Computing's Ratings

Excellent	Market leader that offers exceptional performance	★★★★★
Good	Excels in many areas; a good buy	★★★★
Acceptable	Average for its class; a justifiable purchase	★★★
Poor	Out-of-date or substandard; offset by some positive features	★★
Unacceptable	Missing necessary features; avoid	★

Pentium II



Gateway 2000 G6-333



Verdict: A first-rate system for work or play.

Pros: Feature-packed; big bang for the buck.

Cons: No network card; no DVD.

Features As Tested: 333MHz Pentium II CPU, 512K L2 cache, 64MB of SDRAM, 8.4GB hard drive, 13X/32X CD-ROM drive, STB nVidia graphics accelerator with 4MB of RAM, Boston Acoustics Surround Sound system, x2 fax modem, 19-inch monitor.

\$2,999 est. street price

Gateway 2000

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NEC PowerMate Enterprise II



Verdict: A speedy corporate player; check out the Direction series for home.

Pros: Bitchin' performance; solid desktop management.

Cons: What's not to like?

Features As Tested: 333MHz Pentium II CPU, 512K L2 cache, 64MB of SDRAM, 6.4GB hard drive, 24X CD-ROM drive, ATI Xpert@Work video accelerator with 4MB of RAM, 10/100 Ethernet controller, 16-bit audio, infrared port, 17-inch monitor.

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slots refers to the motherboard connector into which the CPU is plugged. Unlike plain-Jane Pentiums, the Pentium II chip comes on a circuit board with an L2 cache. The whole affair requires a proprietary slot.

Slot 1 Deschutes systems can plug into existing Pentium II motherboards. The difference between the two CPUs? The Deschutes runs at a faster clock speed, devours less power, and stays cooler. But future versions may come with a 1MB L2 cache. More

important, Deschutes will run on 100MHz system buses, up from today's 66MHz bus.

Because Deschutes chips are rendered by a .25-micron process, they consume less electricity (1.2 volts to 2.2 volts) and run cooler. This makes them an ideal platform for notebooks—or so Intel hopes. But already notebook makers have begun to balk. The CPU's form factor won't fit into many super-skinny portables. Also, while the CPU runs cool for its clock speed, heat dissipation

is still an enormous challenge.

Like the Pentium II, Deschutes systems accommodate up to two CPUs. The initial 333MHz version of the chip will be followed by 350MHz and 400MHz versions. Only later this year will manufacturers begin delivering PCs with 100MHz buses, however. And the cost to you will go up precipitously, since these faster buses require expensive 100MHz DRAM chips. But the performance boost for video decompression, 3-D

modeling, and other high-bandwidth chores promises to rock you back on your heels.

Big Iron The first Slot 2 Deschutes systems—the ostensible replacements for today's Pentium Pro boxes—support up to four CPUs. Also, each processor's L2 cache runs at the same clock speed as the CPU.

But the slot itself is designed to draw more power and dissipate more heat than Slot 1. It allows for more surface area on the CPU circuit board to help release heat and to accommo-

New!



Compaq Deskpro 6000 Model 6333X



Verdict: A buttoned-down business box for the well-heeled.

Pros: Watch NT fly.

Cons: Pricey, pricey.

Features As Tested: 333MHz Pentium II CPU, 512K L2 cache, 64MB of SDRAM, 4.3GB Ultra SCSI hard drive, Matrox Millennium II graphics accelerator with 4MB of RAM, 16-bit audio, 10/100 TX embedded Ethernet controller, 19-inch monitor.

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Compaq Computer Corp.
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date ever larger caches in the future. It's more expensive for manufacturers to build, as are all its supporting components—high-speed memory and caches in particular. These costs get handed to you. Only people with money to burn will buy a Slot 2 machine just for spreadsheets and word processors.

Instead, Intel is aiming these machines at the server market and at RISC workstations, where the Pentium II has been hobbled by its comparatively low bandwidth. Meanwhile, both AMD and Cyrix are gearing up competing chips for Slot 1 Deschutes machines, but neither company currently plans to challenge the Slot 2 version.

The word *Deschutes* won't appear on any system you buy. Intel is holding fast to its Pentium II moniker. Also, as the

performance on our five first-generation Deschutes systems suggests, the increase in power under Windows 95 and Windows NT isn't dramatic enough for a new name.

Usual Suspects Hewlett-Packard, Dell, Gateway, NEC, and Compaq are first out of the gate with 333MHz Pentium IIs. All performed neck-and-neck, delivering less than a 10 percent increase in throughput over current 300MHz Pentium IIs. Prices range from just under \$2,900 for the NEC PowerMate Enterprise II to more than \$4,000 for the Compaq Deskpro 6000 Model 6333X.

Among this blue-chip crowd, Hewlett-Packard's Vectra VL gets our nod. It was a top performer, and its base price is \$2,450, sans monitor. Add a 17-inch screen, and it

jumps up to \$3,030. But you get a lot for the money, beginning with 64MB of SDRAM, a 6.4GB hard drive, a 24-speed CD-ROM drive, and an integrated 10/100Base-T network interface. Also, the machine comes with a raft of desktop-management tools for keeping a lid on your total cost of ownership.

The configuration on Gateway's G6-333 is even more plush: 64MB of SDRAM, an 8.4GB hard drive, a 13/32-speed CD-ROM drive, a killer Boston Acoustics sound system, and an x2 fax modem. Tip: Get the 19-inch monitor, which raises your total bill to a reasonable \$2,999. The machine lagged slightly behind the HP Vectra, the NEC PowerMate Enterprise II, and the Compaq Deskpro 6000 in Windows 95 application benchmarks, but the difference was negligible.

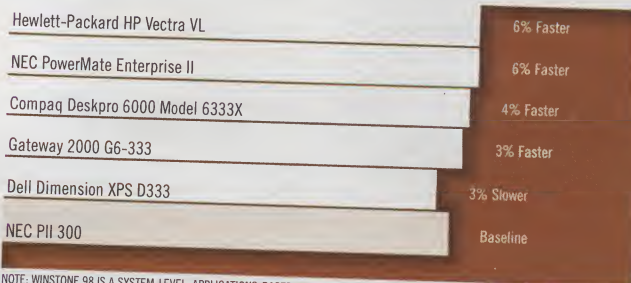
The Gateway G6-333 is on par with the Dell Dimension XPS D333 in dollar value. But frankly, we like Dell's \$2,929 system better, even if it performed slowest under Windows 95 application benchmarks. The machine comes with a whopping 9.1GB hard drive, a DVD drive, a 56Kbps fax modem, and a sound system that'll shame your home stereo.

Over the past year, NEC has been throwing punches in the desktop PC market, determined to grow its market share. So it's not surprising that the company is introducing not one, but two Deschutes systems. Its PowerMate Enterprise II—the business box—ran neck-and-neck with the HP Vectra in Windows 95 and NT application benchmarks. The system's base configuration is stingy by any account. But if you beef it up with 64MB of SDRAM, a 6.4GB hard drive, and a 17-inch monitor, the total comes to \$2,848. Networking is included. NEC also offers a home system, the Direction SPL 333, which swaps a 56Kbps fax modem for the network card.

Where does this leave Compaq's \$4,199 Deskpro 6000 Model 6333X? The machine is expensive—to be sure. The base price runs in the \$3,300 ballpark. But a monitor costs extra, and the gorgeous 19-inch model that came with our system shot the total price up to \$4,199. The machine ships with Windows NT, and its 4.3GB Ultra SCSI hard drive makes it a perfect platform for multimedia authoring and high-end graphics. Even so, we'll wait for the sale. **MARTY JEROME**

The Next Level

Windows 95 Performance



NOTE: WINSTONE 98 IS A SYSTEM-LEVEL, APPLICATIONS-BASED BENCHMARK THAT MEASURES A PC'S OVERALL PERFORMANCE WHEN RUNNING THE MOST POPULAR WINDOWS-BASED 32-BIT BUSINESS APPLICATIONS.

Flash Forward: The revamped 333MHz Pentium II chip, code-named Deschutes, doesn't blow doors off 300MHz Pentium IIs, but there's a noticeable performance boost under Windows 95 and NT.

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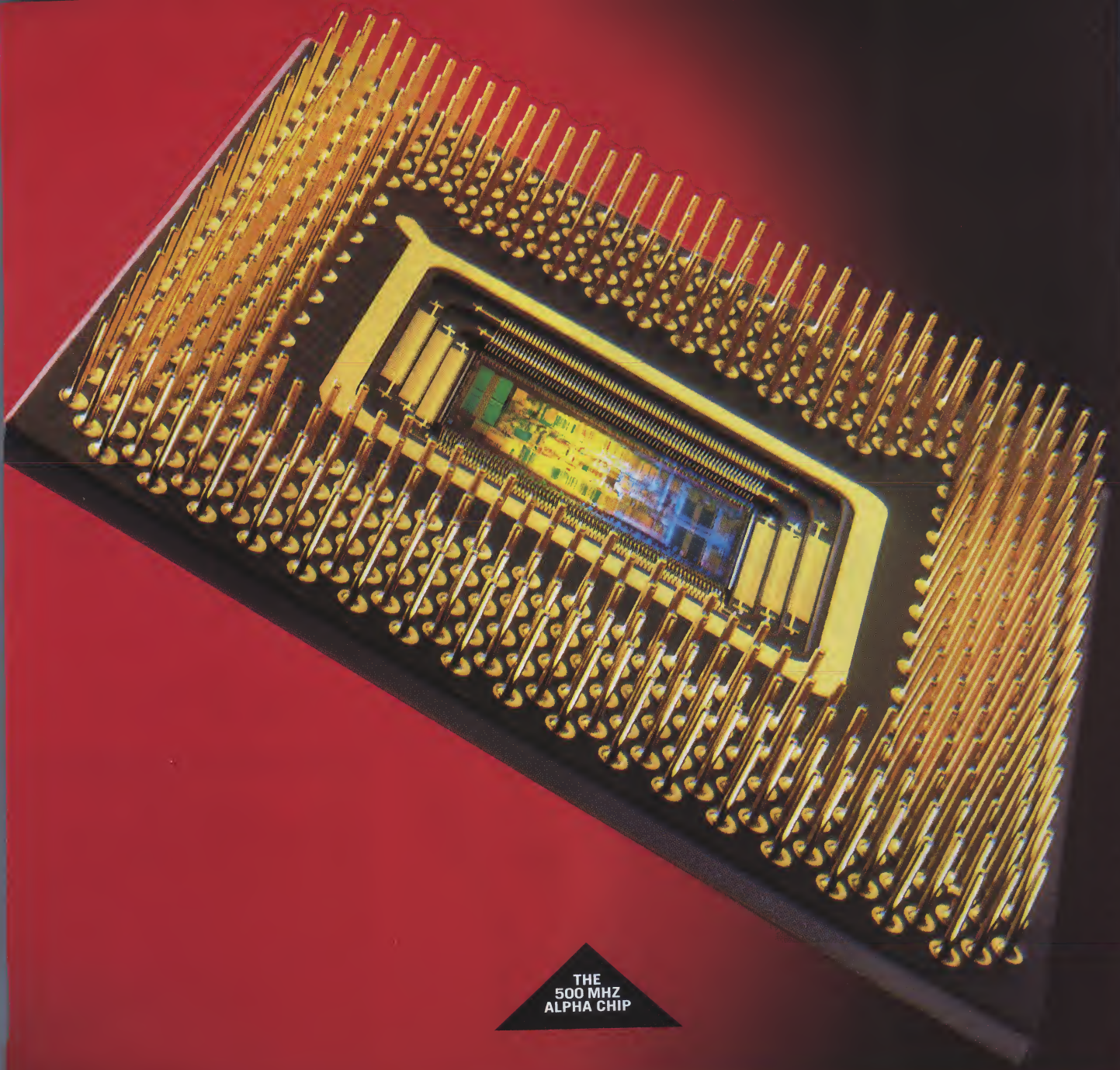
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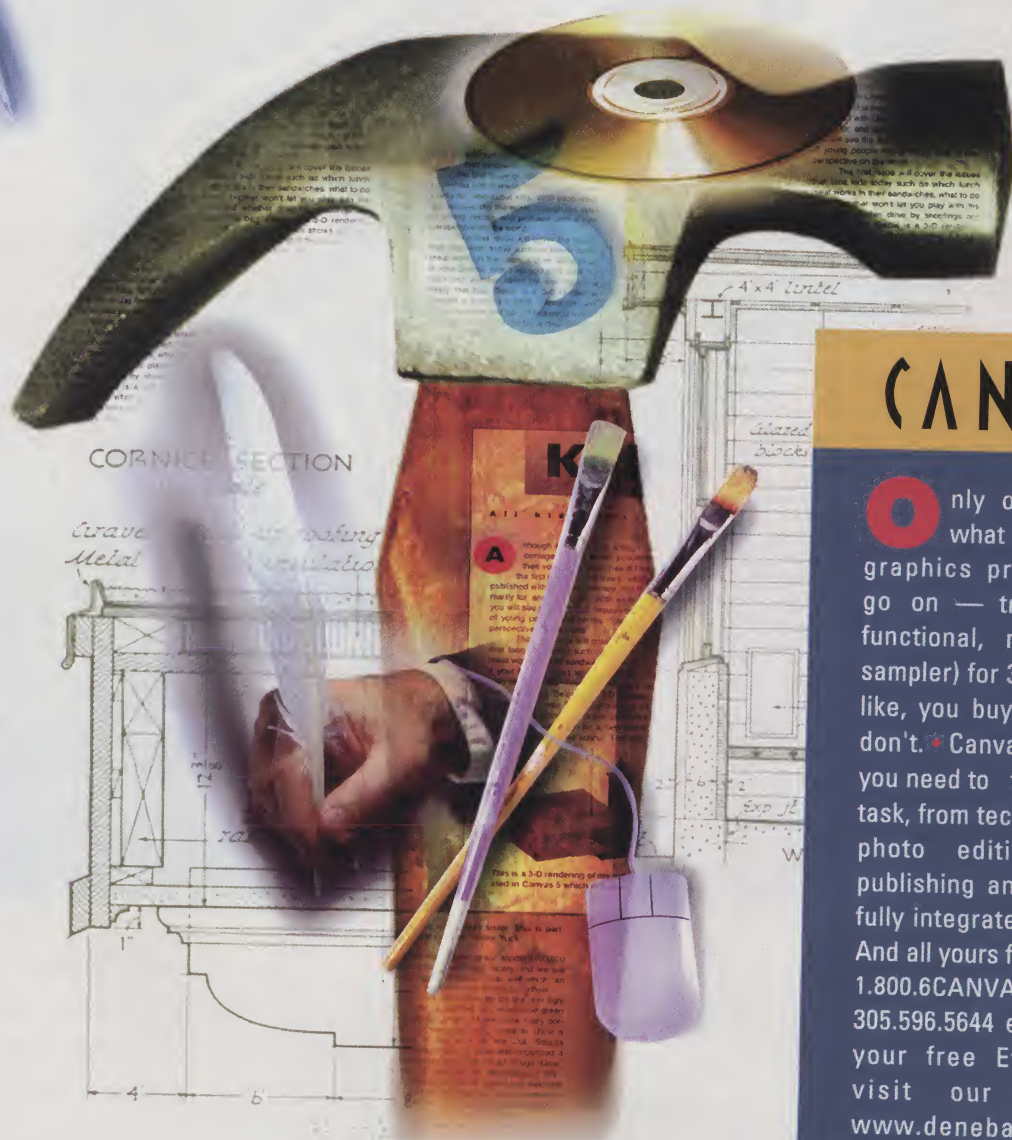
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Mininotebooks March In

Call them protest portables: They were designed from anger—anger at overpriced, shoulder-wrenching multimedia notebooks on the one hand, and at the marginally useful, glorified schedulers that pass as handheld PCs on the other. The Mitsubishi Amity CN and the Hitachi VisionBook Traveler join the Toshiba Libretto as full-fledged, sub-3-pound Pentium notebooks.

Real PCs? You can slip them in a satchel or tuck them in your purse. They practically vanish inside a briefcase. Both machines measure a little over 9 inches by just under 7 inches. Each comes with a 133MHz Pentium CPU, a 1GB or larger hard drive, a color screen, audio circuitry, and PC Card slots. In other words, they're legitimate notebooks.

But would you buy one? At this size and weight, usability takes some hard knocks. For starters, even the mayor of Munchkinland couldn't comfortably touch-type on either keyboard. With a little training, you can poise your paws over the keyboard and delicately strike keys with the appropriate fingers—which is faster than the two-finger hunt-and-peck forced upon you by Windows CE devices. Even so, you're not going to write the great American novel on these tykes.

The VisionBook Traveler's keyboard maintains the relative spacing of keys you'll find on a full-size notebook. By scaling down its Tab, Shift, backspace, and Enter keys, the Amity CN ekes out more space for its QWERTY set. It's the better board. Key travel and response



Three-Pound Portables: New mininotes from Hitachi (left) and Mitsubishi combine a 133MHz Pentium CPU, 1GB hard drive, and color screen, yet weigh less than 3 pounds. The trade-offs? Cramped keyboards and small screens.

on both systems is terrible. But to their credit, they both come with mouse pointing sticks.

Screens are another matter. Both are color. Both provide fine backlighting. But their sub-9-inch size cramps a graphical operating system. Surfing the Web can make you seasick, and AutoCAD is not an option. That said, both are perfectly adequate for e-mail, short documents, and calling up the occasional Web page. And while their internal resolutions mercifully max out at VGA, both can sync an external monitor up to 1,024 by 768. If you don't mind borrowing a monitor, these machines offer the most painless way to put a presentation on the road.

At 8.4 inches, the Traveler's screen is larger than the Amity's 7.5 inches. Both are bigger than that of the Toshiba Libretto (6.1 inches). The Traveler's active-matrix panel is clearer

and crisper than Mitsubishi's passive screen. But this also explains why the Traveler costs some \$600 more than its rival.

Short-lived Both systems come with small lithium-ion batteries that deliver less than 3 hours of charge life. The Amity features an optional add-on battery that adds bulk and heft to an already marginally useful machine. If the point is to keep total traveling weight under 3 pounds, why bother?

Neither system integrates a modem—which means you're stuck with the expense and hassle of using the PC Card variety. Such usability drawbacks echo a previous question: Would you buy one of these systems? The Mitsubishi Amity offers better bang for the buck than either the Hitachi VisionBook Traveler or the Toshiba Libretto. But do yourself a favor and type on its keyboard before you decide. **MARTY JEROME**

FILEBOX

Mitsubishi Amity CN



Verdict: Windows CE? Why bother? This 3-pound Pentium notebook runs all your Windows apps.

Pros: Almost-usable keyboard, best bang for the buck.

Cons: Small passive-matrix screen.

Features As Tested: 133MHz Pentium CPU, 16MB of RAM, 1.2GB hard drive, external floppy drive, two Type II PC Card slots, infrared port, 16-bit Sound Blaster Pro-compatible audio, headphone and microphone jacks, 7.5-inch passive-matrix display, 2.4 pounds.

\$1,995 est. street price
Mitsubishi Electronics America
(714) 377-8023
Enter 617 at
www.pccomputing.com/infolink

Hitachi VisionBook Traveler



Verdict: The brightest screen of any mininote—but it also costs as much as a desktop.

Pros: Largest and best screen of the lot; three PC Card slots.

Cons: Cramped keyboard.

Features As Tested: 133MHz MMX Pentium CPU, 24MB of RAM, 1GB hard drive, external floppy drive, three Type II PC Card slots, infrared port, 16-bit Sound Blaster Pro audio, two integrated speakers, headphone and microphone jacks, 8.4-inch active-matrix display, 2.8 pounds.

\$2,599 est. street price
Hitachi PC Corp.
(800) 555-6820, (408) 546-8000
Enter 618 at
www.pccomputing.com/infolink

Guide to the Ratings:

★★★★★ Excellent ★★★★★ Good ★★★ Acceptable ★★ Poor ★ Unacceptable

Serve a Web Site at Record Speeds

Getting your message to the Web takes two steps—building it, then serving it. Compaq has engineered a pair of tools to let you master these steps with speed and grace. By bundling popular graphics and site-building applications with a muscular model in its Professional Workstation Web Series line, and then simplifying the setup process for a Windows NT-based Web server, Compaq helps you get the job done in style and still have time to take the afternoon off.

Bottled Lightning The Professional Workstation 5100 Model 6300 Web Site Design Plus owes its ferocious speed to two main features: a 300MHz Pentium II processor and Compaq's innovative Highly Parallel System Architecture, which provides dual PCI-bus pathways across the system board. This design gives the processor as much data as it can handle, feeding bits into whichever channel is least clogged.

As if that weren't enough, the workstation is backed by an impressive supporting cast—a 4GB Ultra Wide SCSI hard drive, 64MB of ECC EDO RAM, a 24-speed Max CD-ROM drive, and a Matrox Graphics Millennium II video card. The result is performance



that you have to see to believe, even with resource hogs like Adobe Photoshop 4.0.

Photoshop is one of two Adobe products bundled on this system. It also comes with Adobe Illustrator 7.0 and NetObjects Fusion 2.0. Other models in the Web Series offer Microsoft Visual Studio 97 Professional Edition. While these are best-of-breed applications, it would be nice if Compaq offered more choices, since Web developers each have their favorite tools.

Idiot-Proof Once you've built your dream site, show it to the world with the ProLiant 850R 6/200H Web Server, Compaq's dedicated Web server. It's built around a rack-mounted design that lets you cram as many as 14 servers

Web Workhorse: Get all your Web building equipment at once with Compaq's Professional Workstation 5100—a fast 300MHz PII machine that has plenty of Web creation software already installed.

into one of Compaq's tall server cabinets.

Inside the slim box you'll find a 200MHz Pentium Pro chip (it handles two), 128MB of ECC EDO RAM, a 4.3GB Ultra Wide SCSI hard drive, and a slim-line eight-speed CD-ROM drive. The ProLiant's connection to the outside world is through a network controller that senses the load and responds with 10MBps or 100MBps. The hard drive controller supports the newer Ultra Wide SCSI-3 standard.

The ProLiant comes with a full suite of Microsoft's Web software, including Internet Information Server 3.0 and Site Server Standard Edition. All this power is tamed by Compaq's SmartStart technology.

SmartStart first gets Windows NT Server 4.0 up and running, then goes to work installing the Web software. Everything happens in the right order, with a minimum of effort on the operator's part. You can be hosting a Web site in less than 45 minutes.

It would be nice to have more server software, such as products from Netscape Communications. But their power and ease of use make these two Compaq systems hard to beat.

DWIGHT SILVERMAN



At Your Service: Compaq's ProLiant 850R 6/200H is a revelation for anyone who's ever struggled to get Web server software up and running quickly. Its hand-holding setup of both NT 4.0 and Microsoft IIS takes less than an hour.

FILEBOX

Professional Workstation 5100 Model 6300 Web Site Design Plus



Verdict: A powerful site-designing platform that'll have you crafting Web pages in minutes.

Pros: Very fast due to a unique dual-PCI system architecture; easy to set up; lots of room for expansion.

Cons: Pricey; limited selection of design and Web site-management software.

Features As Tested: 300MHz Pentium II CPU, 64MB of RAM, 4GB Ultra Wide SCSI hard drive, Matrox Graphics Millennium II video card, 24X CD-ROM drive, 10/100 TX network controller, Windows NT 4.0.

\$5,540 est. street price
Enter 619 at
www.pccomputing.com/infolink

ProLiant 850R 6/200H Web Server



Verdict: All the glory of a top-flight Web server with none of the hassles.

Pros: Easy to set up; slim-line case; complete set of Web-server applications.

Cons: Includes only Microsoft server software; limited to two Pentium Pro processors.

Features As Tested: 200MHz Pentium Pro CPU, 256K L2 cache, 128MB of RAM, 4.3GB Ultra Wide SCSI hard drive, 8X slim-line CD-ROM drive, 10/100 TX network controller, Microsoft Windows NT Server 4.0.

Starting at \$8,000 est. street price
Compaq Computer Corp.
Enter 620 at
www.pccomputing.com/infolink

Guide to the Ratings:



Excellent



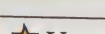
Good



Acceptable



Poor



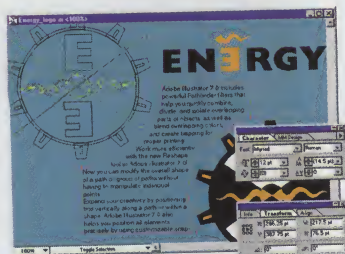
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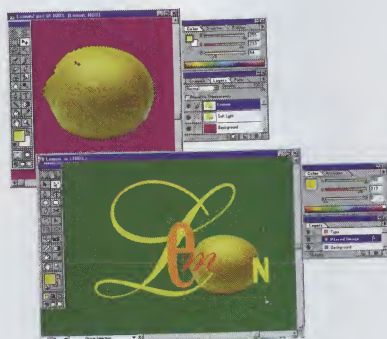
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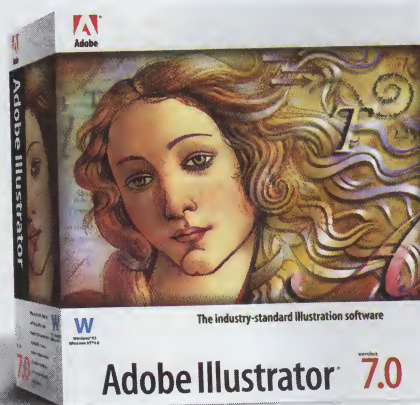
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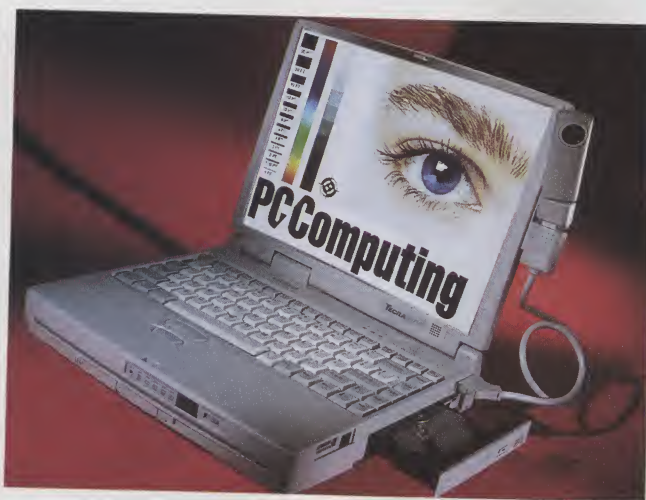
Home Theater Under Your Arm

Even if you don't go gaga over the new Toshiba Tecra's DVD drive or its integrated videoconferencing, you'll blow your budget to own the Tecra 750DVD. As notebooks go, it catapults a full generation ahead of the big beige box sitting on your desk.

In-flight Movies The Tecra 750DVD is a showboat of video technologies. In addition to the DVD drive—which swaps with a second hard drive, a second battery, or a floppy drive—the Tecra comes with hardware-based MPEG-2 playback. And the whole production goes up on a big 13.3-inch active-matrix display. (Skip the thriller on your next flight; bring your own flick on DVD.)

For presentations, S3's Virge graphics controller pops up 3-D slides onto your screen or external monitor as fast as any desktop PC. The Tecra includes NTSC/PAL TV encoding and S-Video out ports. Also, there's Dolby's AC-3 Surround Sound with MIDI and WAV support. The integrated speakers blare at high volumes, but they suffice for small gatherings.

Videoconferencing comes by way of Toshiba's own digital capture camera, a wandlike device measuring a little more



Showstopper: From its DVD drive to its hardware-based MPEG-2 support and integrated videoconferencing, Toshiba's 233MHz Tecra is a marvel of video technologies.

than 5 inches long that attaches to the side of the display; a cable connects it to a proprietary port. There's a focus wheel, and you can swivel the camera side to side or up and down. Microsoft's NetMeeting 2.0 and Noteworthy's Business VideoPhone are bundled with the notebook.

Image quality and performance are on a par with Connectix's Color QuickCam. For the best results you need lots of ambient light. And the image that results is not flattering, nor is the motion seamless. But for whiteboarding or glimpsing

faraway loved ones—either via a phone connection or across the Internet—it's adequate.

Performance is comparable to what you'll see from most 233MHz MMX Pentium portables. In our tests the Tecra ran 5 percent faster than AST's Ascentia M, due mainly to the Tecra's standard 64MB of RAM (the Ascentia comes standard with 32MB). Battery life was impressive at nearly 4 hours.

Up to Snuff The Tecra's communications are as advanced as its video. The machine integrates a software-upgradable 56Kbps digital simultaneous voice and data fax modem. It also comes with a built-in cellular port connector for the Motorola Elite and MicroTac phones.

Should you need CD and floppy drives at the same time, you can run the latter as an external drive, using a cable. The hard drive is removable.

Oh, we've got our usability gripes. The screen's backlighting

could be brighter. The LED lights for system status—positioned on the front edge of the machine—are readable only if you cock your head to a 90-degree angle and lay it flat against your desktop. We wouldn't complain if the function keys were larger. And given the notebook's 8-plus pounds of traveling weight, the next Tecra ought to come with wheels so you can drag it through airports, rather than lug it on your shoulder.

Even so, we'd take out a second mortgage in order to own one. You won't find a better platform for traveling road shows. In fact, you'd be hard-pressed to find a better PC, period.

MARTY JEROME

FILEBOX

Toshiba Tecra 750DVD



Verdict: Theater-quality video—and DVD—and it fits in your briefcase.

Pros: Cutting-edge video and drive technologies; superb design; integrated videoconferencing.

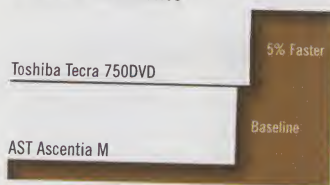
Cons: Onerously hefty; staggering price.

Features As Tested:

233MHz MMX Pentium CPU, 512K L2 cache, 64MB of EDO RAM, 4.7GB hard drive, DVD-ROM drive, 13.3-inch active-matrix display, hardware-based MPEG-2 playback, S3 Virge graphics controller with 4MB of GRAM, detachable video camera, 56Kbps fax modem, AC-3 Dolby Digital Surround Sound, two Type II PC Card slots, infrared port.

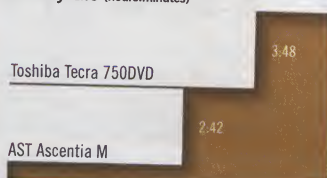
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NOTE: WINSTONE 98 IS A SYSTEM-LEVEL, APPLICATIONS-BASED BENCHMARK THAT MEASURES A PC'S OVERALL PERFORMANCE WHEN RUNNING THE MOST POPULAR WINDOWS-BASED 32-BIT BUSINESS APPLICATIONS.

Battery Life (hours:minutes)



NOTE: BATTERYMARK MEASURES BATTERY LIFE ON NOTEBOOK COMPUTERS RUNNING WINDOWS 95 OR WINDOWS NT. ZDIGIT IS A HARDWARE COMPONENT THAT WORKS WITH BATTERYMARK SOFTWARE TO ELECTRONICALLY SIMULATE COMMON USER ACTIVITY.

Hold Everything: Equipped with 64MB of RAM, Toshiba's Tecra 750DVD is faster than AST's 233MHz Ascentia M, but it also weighs over 8 pounds and costs nearly \$6,000.

Guide to the Ratings:



Excellent



Good



Acceptable



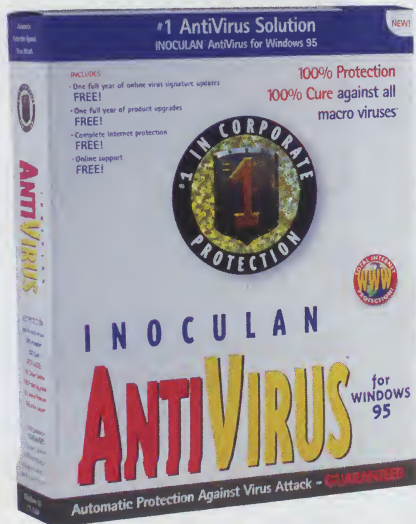
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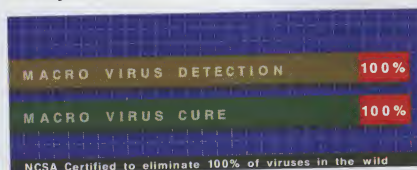
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Dazzling Prints for the Entire Office

Gone are the days of gathering around the office watercooler to share idle chitchat and gripe about the boss. Today's workers do their kibitzing at the network printer, waiting for their pages to emerge from the queue. Hewlett-Packard's spiffy new HP LaserJet 4000TN will definitely draw a crowd, though not just to gossip. With its sleek, compact design and dazzling 1,200-dpi output, this laser may attract gawkers too.

Instant Gratification

Rest easy, office managers—the LaserJet's 17-ppm print engine and 100MHz RISC processor finish jobs so quickly that no one has the chance to linger. Nor can anyone claim they're waiting for the printer to warm up, thanks to HP's instant-on fuser technology. Even when idling in low-power mode, the LaserJet needs just a few seconds to start churning out pages.

Armed with HP's JetDirect 600N print server—which sports BNC, RJ-45, and LocalTalk connectors—the 4000TN supports all types of Ethernet network environments, including Windows 95 and Windows NT, IBM OS/2 Warp, Novell NetWare, and Unix. It automatically switches between PCL and PostScript Level 2, and automatically senses which



Paper Tiger: HP's latest LaserJet, the 4000TN, brings a boatload of printing practicalities to the network, including extensive paper handling and 17-ppm print speeds.

of its many ports is receiving data. Particularly cool is HP's Web JetAdmin 2.5 software, which lets network administrators monitor and configure the printer remotely, via a Web browser.

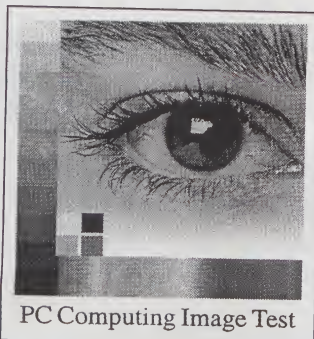
The LaserJet ships with two 250-sheet paper trays, so you can keep mixed media at the ready—everything from A4 to legal size. Its fold-down multipurpose tray holds another 100 sheets (or 10 envelopes), bringing the total input capacity to 600. HP offers several options to enhance the LaserJet's paper-handling capabilities, including a 500-sheet bin, a 75-envelope autofeeder, and a

mechanism for duplex printing.

Razor-Sharp Previous LaserJet models produced pretty stellar output from their 600-dpi engines, so we wondered if the 4000TN's 1,200-dpi engine could raise the bar in any significant way. Does it ever. The 4000TN produces ultrasharp text, legible all the way down to 4-point type, and its grayscales are the best in this class. Oddly, scanned photos look noticeably better when printed using the PostScript driver. In PCL mode they have too much contrast, though they're still very sharp. You could definitely use the LaserJet to produce camera-ready artwork for all but the most upscale jobs.

HP's print driver supports document scaling, *n*-up printing, watermarks, and customizable option-sets you can save for later use. Everything worked flawlessly during our tests except for two small glitches. First, the driver reported finding only 4MB of RAM, while the 4000TN has 8MB. Worse, it didn't always show the correct paper-tray

Eye for Detail: The LaserJet 4000TN's 1,200-dpi resolution produces stunning graphics and razor-sharp text even down to 4-point type.



PC Computing Image Test

configuration. Sometimes only two of the available three appeared. Thinking that an updated driver might solve both problems, we looked to the software's Automatic Configuration option, which checks HP's Web site for new drivers. Alas, despite finding and downloading some updates, the driver remained its slightly flaky self.

These minor potholes aside, HP has served up yet another top-notch network printer. Though not as fast as Xerox's 24-ppm DocuPrint N24 or Apple's 20-ppm LaserWriter 8500, the LaserJet 4000TN costs less than both of them and prints at twice the resolution. The only problem is figuring out an excuse to stay gathered around it for those office gab sessions.

RICK BROIDA

FILEBOX

Hewlett-Packard HP LaserJet 4000TN



Verdict: At 17 ppm, a fast and versatile network printer that squeezes 1,200 glorious dots into every inch.

Pros: Gorgeous, high-res output; advanced Web-based network-management software; low price.

Cons: Quirky driver; paper jams particularly tough to clear.

Competition: The Xerox DocuPrint N24 has twice the paper capacity and churns out 24 ppm, but it costs \$1,000 more and prints at only 600 dpi. Ditto Apple's LaserWriter 8500, although it has the advantage of supporting much larger paper.

\$1,599 est. street price
Hewlett-Packard
(800) 752-0900

Guide to the Ratings:

★★★★★ Excellent

★★★★ Good

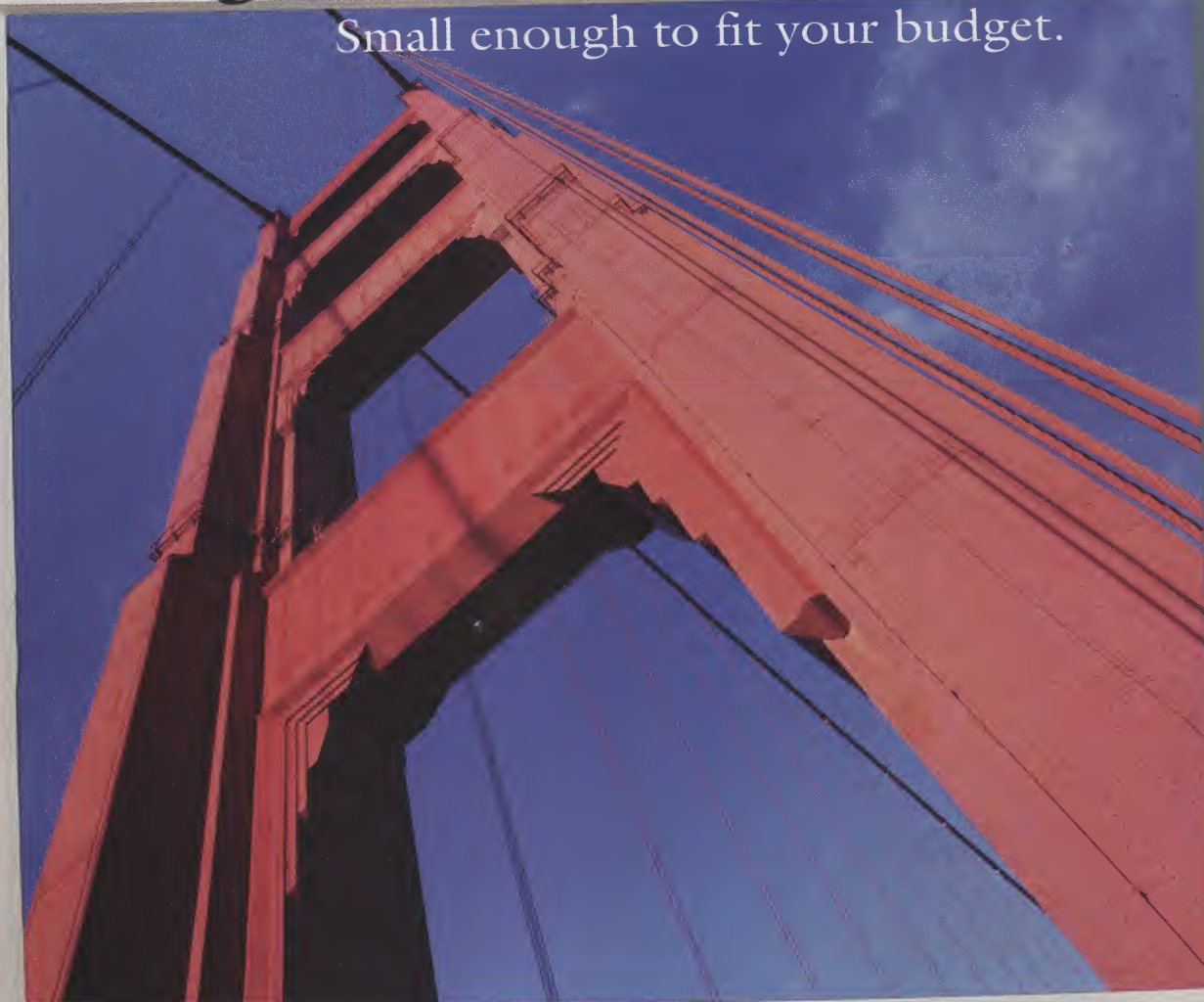
★★★ Acceptable

★★ Poor

★ Unacceptable

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1-800-977-3336 or www.pccomputing.com/infolink



CD Recording Gets a Second Chance

Nothing is final, even if you burn it on CD. These days you can create, reuse, and rewrite your own CDs with the Philips Omni/20 or the Nomai 680.RW, a new generation of CD-recordable (CD-R) drives that support CD-rewritable (CD-RW) technology. CD-RW lets you rewrite information to special CDs. We evaluated external versions of the Philips Omni/20 and the Nomai 680.RW, both of which are available in internal versions as well.

Both drives let you copy audio CDs and CD-ROMs, and create discs by copying files from your hard drive. But while CD-R discs can be read by almost any CD-ROM drive, CD-RW discs can, unfortunately, be read only by CD-RW-specific drives. Both drives we looked at write at double speed and act as six-speed CD-ROM readers. In our tests we found the reading speed of these devices to be slightly slower than that of a stock six-speed drive.

Well-read The Philips Omni/20 connects to either a SCSI interface or a PC's parallel port, and it comes with better software and documentation than the Nomai 680.RW. The first-rate HyCD software walks you through the process of copying audio CDs and CD-ROMs and creating CDs by copying files from



No Burnout: Two new CD-R drives, the Nomai 680.RW (left) and the Philips Omni/20, let you burn CDs without fear. Both support the new CD-rewritable standard and cost less than \$600.

your hard drive. If you're new to the CD-burning game, there's a helpful multimedia tutorial. The drive also includes Seagate's Backup Exec for CD-RW, a first-rate backup application.

We encountered no problems copying CDs, creating backup CDs, and using the drive as a CD-ROM reader. The documentation gives you enough information to get started but could provide more instruction. The Omni/20 comes in a bulky case the size of a telephone book, which is handy only for carrying around the office.

The Nomai 680.RW comes in separate parallel-port and

SCSI versions, and you can purchase the SCSI version with or without a SCSI interface card. Compared with the Omni/20, the Nomai 680.RW comes in a more compact case that includes a handy carrying bag, although it's too bulky to take on cross-country trips.

No-nonsense In our tests the Plug and Play SCSI board installed flawlessly and we encountered no problems installing and using the drive. The Nomai 680.RW comes with outstanding software, including Adaptec's Easy-CD Pro and DirectCD, a backup utility, and CD-labeling software. We easily created CDs by copying files from our hard drive and followed wizards to make copies of CD-ROMs and audio CDs. The drive worked well as a six-speed CD-ROM reader.

On the downside, the Nomai 680.RW's incomplete documentation shows you how to install the SCSI board but not much more. We learned about several included programs

FILEBOX

Philips Omni/20



Verdict: A first-rate CD-recordable and CD-rewritable drive that's easy to install and use.

Pros: Works through both SCSI and parallel-port connections.

Cons: Discs can't be read by regular CD-ROM drives; slightly slower than a traditional 6X CD-ROM drive.

\$599 est. street price
Philips Electronics
(800) 235-7373, (408) 570-5600
Enter 622 at
www.pccomputing.com/infolink

Nomai 680.RW



Verdict: A solid CD-recordable and CD-rewritable drive.

Pros: Easy installation; outstanding software bundle.

Cons: Discs can't be read by regular CD-ROM drives; limited documentation; separate SCSI and parallel-port versions; slightly slower than a standard 6X CD-ROM drive.

\$549 est. street price
Nomai USA
(888) 996-6624, (408) 542-5915
Enter 623 at
www.pccomputing.com/infolink



Hard Drive

Helper: The Nomai drive comes with Adaptec's DirectCD, the best software we've seen for using your CD-R drive just like a hard drive.

because we saw the floppy disks in the box. We discovered the remaining software only when we browsed the CD-ROM.

When choosing a writable CD drive, both the Philips Omni/20 and the Nomai 680.RW offer first-rate CD-R and CD-RW capabilities. But in this competition the Omni/20 provided better instructions, the ability to connect through both SCSI and parallel ports, and a smaller price tag. **WAYNE KAWAMOTO**

Guide to the Ratings:



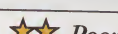
Excellent



Good



Acceptable

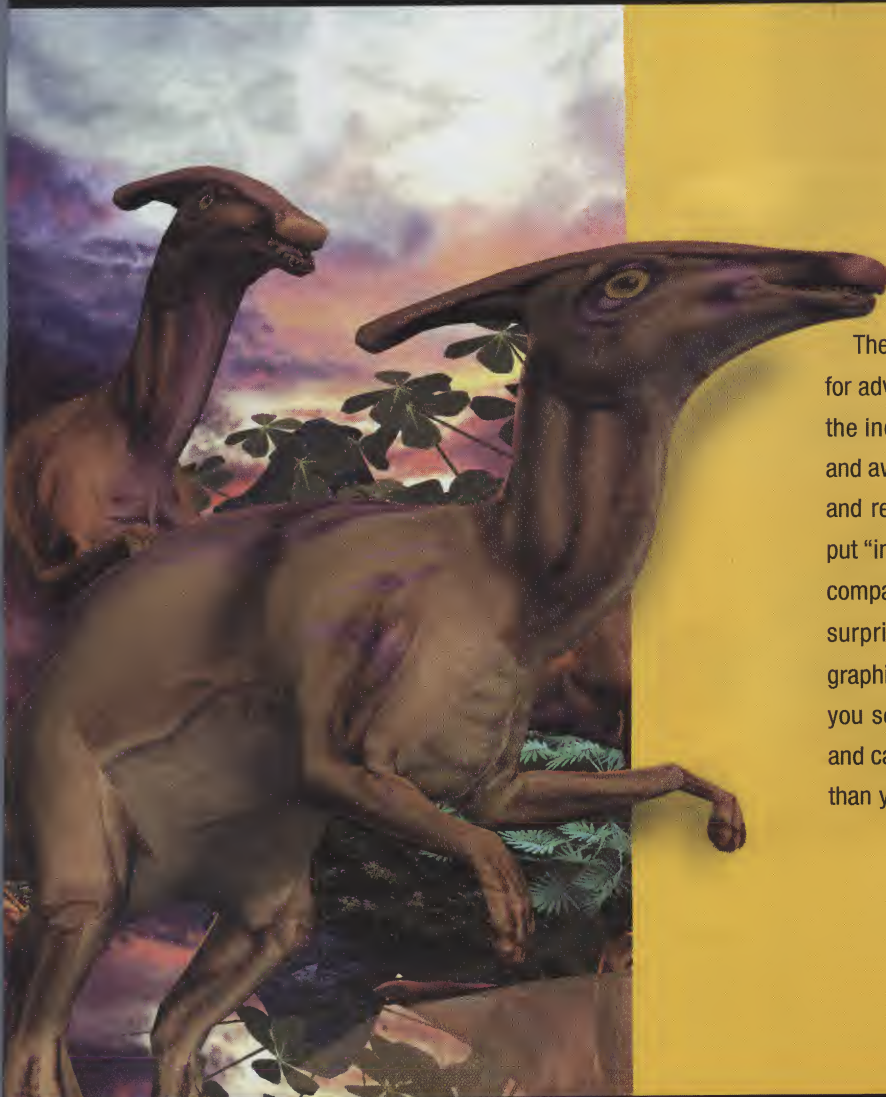


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Unacceptable

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Push-button Speed Scanner

If you ever wished hooking up a scanner were as easy as plugging in a toaster, you're ready for USB, specifically Storm Technology's PageScan USB sheet-fed scanner. Its USB connector brings not only easy installation and speed, but also the capability to connect as many as 100 devices. Plus the PageScan USB

does a lot more than scanning—it also faxes, copies, and manages documents and images.

Other PageScan perks include its compact design, no external power supply, and two paper paths, straight and curved. The ScanButton launches ScanBank, PageScan's scanning utility, with one push. Push the

button again to feed your photo or document through the scanner. But while the initial PageScan USB setup is a breeze, ScanBank gets confusing. The clean interface is a bit too clean; a toolbar would help with finding key features.

However, the PageScan USB shines with its intuitive image-editing tools. There are icons along the sides of the image for cropping, resizing, and rotating. Changing your document is as easy as toggling a handle in or out. It's extremely simple, and Storm's competition should take heed. Storm bundles Adobe PhotoDeluxe for Projects and a version of Xerox TextBridge Pro for OCR.

The PageScan USB is a 24-bit, 300-dpi scanner, and its images are a bit dark. But



Plugged In: Half the battle of scanning is getting everything to work. Connect up to 100 devices to Storm Technology's PageScan USB scanner—with no worries at all.

FILEBOX

PageScan USB



Verdict: Finally, a scanner that's easier to operate than your toaster.

Pros: Easiest install ever, thanks to USB; intuitive image-editing tools; handy push-button activation.

Cons: Confusing interface in ScanBank utility.

\$229 est. street price
 Storm Technology, (800) 732-3039
 Enter 636 at
www.pccomputing.com/infolink

they're adequate overall, and the scanner catches a fair amount of detail. If convenience and versatility are your top priorities, it's hard to go wrong with USB. And the PageScan USB will have you up and scanning in no time. **LIESL LA GRANGE NOBLE**

IBM Cordless Computer Connection

The Web Without Wires

Go ahead, sit on the deck with your notebook and check your e-mail. IBM's Cordless Computer Connection is a wireless modem extender, a 900MHz radio device that lets you roam with ease.

The Connection consists of two units: a base unit that plugs into the RJ-11 phone jack in your wall and a remote radio receiver unit for your laptop. In our testing the farthest we could stray from the base unit was about 30 feet; and yes, it worked well through walls and windows, even when we were outdoors. The bandwidth and throughput were acceptable, and Web access seemed as fast as when



we were directly connected.

Unfortunately, the remote unit is too big. Sure, it weighs only 9 ounces, but at 6.5 by 2.75 by 1.5 inches, it dwarfed our IBM ThinkPad 765D. Given the size of the remote

No Wires: Walk away from the phone jack but keep your Internet connection with IBM's \$199 Cordless Computer Connection, a 900MHz wireless modem extender.

unit, we were puzzled by the feeble battery life. After a full charge, requiring 15 hours, the NiCad power pack delivered only two hours of uptime before needing a recharge.

At \$199 on the street, the

Cordless Computer Connection is pricey given its features and performance. Until the price comes down, most home users are better off connecting with yards of cheap RJ-11 phone wire. **RICH SCHWERIN**

FILEBOX

IBM Cordless Computer Connection



Verdict: Extend the reach of your modem—wirelessly.

Pros: Easy installation.

Cons: Bulky adapter; limited bandwidth and range.

\$199 est. street price
 IBM Corp., (800) 772-2227
 Enter 637 at
www.pccomputing.com/infolink

Guide to the Ratings:



Excellent



Good



Acceptable



Poor



Unacceptable

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Infolink 299 at: www.pccomputing.com/infolink

Easy Office Network PCs

Wondering how you're going to afford an IS staff for your small office? Relax. Pick up a few Hewlett-Packard Brio PCs and you'll have everything you need—including a simple peer-to-peer network. The latest from HP's small-office army of PCs, the Brio arrives ready to be connected.

Don't know the first thing about setting up a network? Don't sweat it. The Brio comes with plenty of network utilities and simple tutorials that are so clear you'll set up complete file and peripheral sharing during your lunch hour. The Brio also includes software to create a simple pop-up messaging system among machines, and Artisoft's iShare so you can share Internet access.

Just because most small



Ready to Go:

The HP Brio is full of small-office tactics, including simple peer-to-peer networking, easy Internet access, and fast performance.

offices have small budgets doesn't mean they don't demand big PC power. The Brio comes packed with some heavy artillery, including a 233MHz MMX Pentium processor, a 6.5GB hard drive, a Matrox Graphics MGA Millennium II card with 4MB of

RAM, and a 56K modem. Not bad for just over \$2,000. Unfortunately, an Ethernet card will cost you about \$70 extra. Bundled software includes Microsoft Word 97, McAfee Associates VirusScan, and plenty of tutorials and troubleshooting apps.

FILEBOX

Hewlett-Packard HP Brio 8178



Verdict: Creating a network has never been so easy for small businesses.

Pros: Great networking utilities; lots of software; fast.

Cons: Why not make it a PII? No Ethernet card included.

\$2,042 est. street price
Hewlett-Packard
(800) 322-4772, (970) 635-1000

Performance-wise, the Brio screams. It was nearly as fast as Dell's Dimension XPS 233, the current 233MHz Pentium champ. At these speeds, and with such easy configuring, maybe you'll actually be able to leave the office before it's time to go back to work. **JACK LYON**

Lexmark 7200 Color Jetprinter

Penny-wise Photo Printing

You've got the digital camera. You've got the Web site. You're cutting-edge. But how do you share your shots with your

Neanderthal PC-less friends? Try on the Lexmark 7200 Color Jetprinter for size and bring a personal Fotomat to your desktop. The Color Jetprinter produces great-looking photorealistic output that rivals even that of the Epson Stylus Color 600, with great text to boot.

Like many photorealistic ink-jet printers, the Color Jetprinter offers a six-color solution with its Photo

Printing Kit to yield smoother images and flesh tones. You can also opt to purchase an Office Printing Kit, with a waterproof black cartridge and a cyan, yellow, and magenta cartridge.

The Color Jetprinter supports up to 1,200-by-1,200-dpi output and the results are stunning. Flesh tones and overall colors are consistent, and shadow detail is great. And if you're doing lots of text printing, you'll appreciate the crisp, sharp output on plain paper. The quality is definitely good enough to print business documents and résumés.

At just \$399 there's no excuse not to buy a Color Jetprinter. Interested in capturing



Capture the Color: Pair Lexmark's 7200 Color Jetprinter with color images for great-looking 1,200-dpi output.

FILEBOX

Lexmark 7200 Color Jetprinter



Verdict: Amazing photographic output and top-notch text too.

Pros: Fast; affordable; great-looking color and text.

Cons: Noisy; default output goes heavy on the blues.

\$399 est. street price
Lexmark Int'l, (800) 539-6275
Enter 683 at
www.pccomputing.com/infolink

and printing video stills? Check out the \$499 7200V, which has the Play Snappy built in to capture and print images directly from your camcorder. **ROMAN LOYOLA**

Guide to the Ratings:



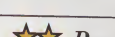
Excellent



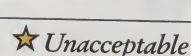
Good



Acceptable



Poor

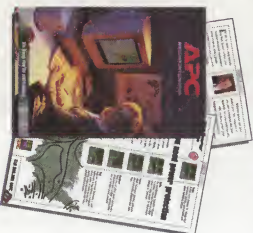


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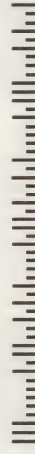
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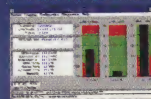
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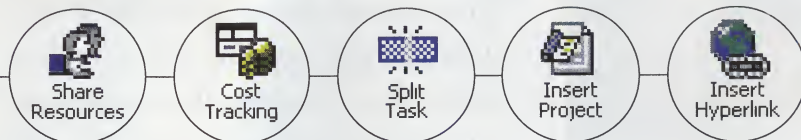


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are

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From: New Microsoft Project 98

Date: Wednesday, 4:45 p.m.

To: Planning Committee

Re: One more little thing...

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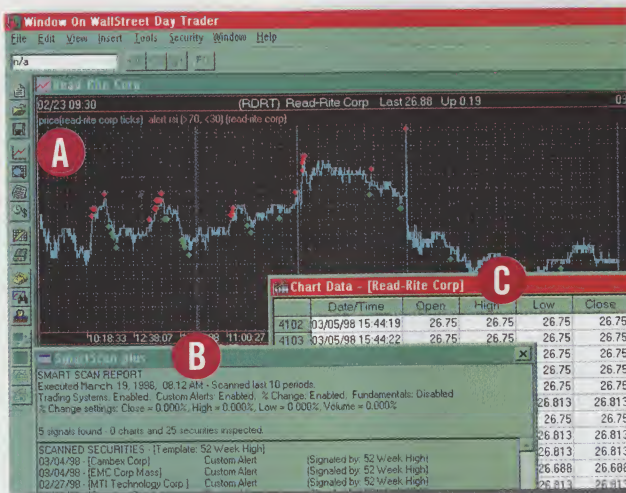
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Work the Fast Trade

Wild ups and downs in the market mean indigestion for most investors. But for savvy traders, turbulence can mean profits—if you dart nimbly in and out of stocks. Up to now, acquiring the investment tools necessary to exploit short-term trading plays cost a small fortune. But Window On WallStreet's new Day Trader 6 brings fast-action stock trading features to the common investor.

Buy Low Day Trader lets you monitor the market like the pros, receiving a steady stream of real-time quotes and news on thousands of stocks, bonds, options, and commodities. Then you analyze on the fly with the program's sophisticated fundamental and technical analysis tools. At \$1,295 for the package or \$100 per month through a subscription plan, Day Trader costs roughly half what you would spend for Omega Research's TradeStation.

Granted, you still need to fork out another \$79 to \$300 per month for the satellite feed that provides the real-time data Day Trader relies on, but with Internet delivery options just



Quick Money: Get in and out quickly with Window On WallStreet Day Trader. The real-time stock monitoring and analysis tools track anything you want, and apply different trading theories on the fly.

A. Plot the price of a stock and view it by day, week, or year.

B. SmartScan Plus lets you set up rules. When a stock hits a certain price, for example, Day Trader notifies you.

C. Dump stock info into a spreadsheet for your own analysis.

around the corner, those data costs should come down.

Tick, Tock Right out of the box, Day Trader performs a number of tricks more expensive programs can't, in part because it's built on 32-bit architecture. For instance,

while Omega Research's TradeStation processes only about 13,000 separate trades or ticks, Day Trader collects and analyzes more than 76 million ticks (152 million under Windows NT).

What's more, Day Trader filters through this data as it arrives to alert you instantly to any securities that meet the criteria you specify, like a semiconductor stock that just crossed over its 60-day moving average. And while TradeStation lets you back test only one indicator at a time, Day Trader lets you test its 17 built-in trading systems all at once.

For all its technological advances, Day Trader still has a long way to catch up to

FILEBOX

Window On WallStreet Day Trader 6



Verdict: Get richer quicker with real-time professional stock monitoring and analysis.

Pros: Great price; constantly analyzes 76 million ticks in real time; applies 17 built-in trading systems for in-depth analysis.

Cons: Still lacks the flexibility of Omega Research's program to create customized trading strategies; not for novices.

System Requirements:

Windows 95 or NT, 100MHz Pentium, 32MB of RAM, 350MB of hard disk space, CD-ROM.

\$1,295 for package; \$100 per month for subscription; \$79 to \$300 per month for data feed via satellite, est. street prices Window On WallStreet (888) 732-5969, (972) 783-6792 Enter 624 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

System Test Report							
Txn	Date	Price	Commission	Drawdown	Gain	Total Gain	Equity
OUT							
Long	08/07/89	\$3.19	\$25.00				
LClose	12/14/89	\$4.28	\$25.00	\$-165.94	\$1637.17	\$1637.17	\$6637.17
Short	12/14/89	\$4.28	\$25.00				
MLStop	12/19/89	\$4.60	\$25.00	\$-525.35	\$-543.53	\$1093.64	\$6093.64
Interest	12/28/89	\$4.83	\$25.00		\$4.13	\$1097.77	\$6097.77
Long	12/28/89	\$4.83	\$25.00				
LClose	07/24/90	\$7.78	\$25.00	\$-85.94	\$3649.75	\$4747.52	\$9747.52
Short	07/24/90	\$7.78	\$25.00				
SLClose	10/01/90	\$7.58	\$25.00	\$-233.13	\$193.13	\$4940.64	\$9940.64
Long	10/01/90	\$7.58	\$25.00				
MLStop	10/09/90	\$6.61	\$25.00	\$-787.94	\$-1321.24	\$3619.40	\$8619.40
Interest	10/16/90	\$6.61	\$25.00		\$4.55	\$3623.94	\$8623.94
Short	10/16/90	\$6.61	\$25.00				
MLStop	10/16/90	\$6.61	\$25.00	\$-1229.73	\$-1197.02	\$2426.92	\$7426.92

Insider Tips: Create a custom report based on any criteria, such as commission prices, stock highs and lows, and the total value of your stock.

Guide to the Ratings:

★★★★★ Excellent

★★★★ Good

★★★ Acceptable

★★ Poor

★ Unacceptable

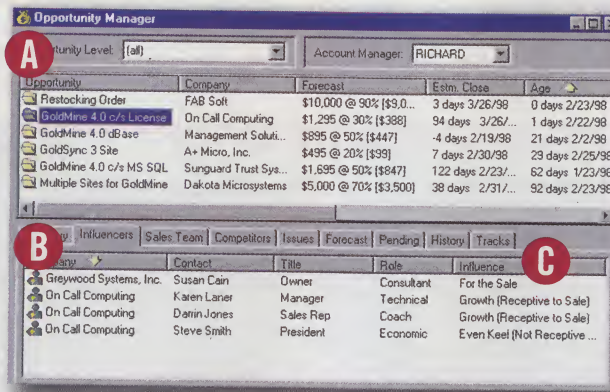
Always a Step Ahead

In sales and marketing, you are who you know. But shaking hands and swapping business cards only pay off if you can capture, organize, and follow up after that initial meeting. Look no further than GoldMine 4.0.

The new version of GoldMine Software's do-everything contact manager still covers the important bases: group scheduling, e-mail, time and call tracking, reporting, and Web integration. In fact, users of the previous version won't notice much difference in the interface. Why mess with a good thing?

Faster, Faster What you can't see in GoldMine boosts your productivity. Major backend changes in version 4.0 let companies gradually scale up as they grow. With the addition of server-side software, businesses that rely on one of several popular databases—dBase IV, Microsoft SQL Server (BackOffice), Oracle, Sybase, Informix, and Interbase, for example—can tap into that information with the GoldMine 4.0 client. That means vital contact and calendar details are always up-to-date, and mobile users won't have trouble gaining access to the company's main databases from the road. And faster syncing with an IP-to-IP connection leaves road warriors even more time to clinch sales.

GoldMine 4.0 digs a lot deeper than the average contact manager and scheduler. The type and amount of information you can add to each contact record is practically limitless, once you figure out how it works. What's more, this version packs industry-specific shells—different interfaces with customized screens, templates,

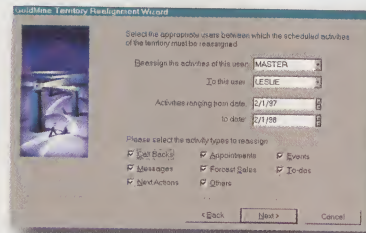


Teamwork: GoldMine 4.0's new Opportunity Manager lets users track multiple projects, contacts, and appointments associated with the same client or sale—for a team-centered approach to closing more deals.

A. View your sales opportunities in the top pane, including who manages each one.

B. Tabs below let you track a host of related information, such as competitors and forecasts.

C. Keep key information about influential decision-makers under the Influence tab.



Mark Your Territory: GoldMine's Territory Realignment Wizard lets sales managers keep a handle on their troops' client load.

and lookups—for real estate and insurance pros, with more to come. And these extra features don't mean slower performance either, thanks to true 32-bit Windows multithreading, which shortens the time it takes GoldMine to complete simultaneous commands.

Opportunity Knocks

Building on its workgroup focus, GoldMine 4.0 offers an alternate way to manage contacts, called the Opportunity Manager. This is a fancy name for a feature that lets you group all contacts, logged calls, e-mail messages, and calendar items as they relate to a particular business opportunity, or a potential sale, client, or account. And

the new Territory Realignment Wizard lets sales managers keep pace with the closing of all their deals.

The features that faithful GoldMine users know and love have improved too. The E-mail Center already offered Internet messaging; in version 4.0 GoldMine tacks on native support of Microsoft Exchange 5.0, the essential feature to organize your e-mail in folders. GoldMine 4.0 also supports multiple Internet e-mail accounts. And one-click Internet updates guarantee you've always got the most current version.

Curiously, the otherwise powerful calendar lacks a handy feature found in the

much less robust Microsoft Outlook 97: The calendar's day view doesn't let you put more than one day—say, Monday and Wednesday of next week—side by side in the same view.

If you're looking for a way to move info from business cards and scribbled-on napkins into your PC, GoldMine 4.0 is overkill. Packages like Symantec Act 3.0 or Maximizer 97—or Outlook, for Office 97 users—take less time to learn. But if you want to keep tabs on everything from Aunt Edna's birthday to the ratio of cold calls to completed sales, and share your findings with a workgroup, GoldMine 4.0 is the only answer.

LESLIE AYERS

FILEBOX

GoldMine 4.0



Verdict: The best way to track and analyze all your nitty-gritty sales details.

Pros: Small-business server; more varied database support; lots of wizards and templates.

Cons: Takes time to learn; can't view noncontiguous days side by side in calendar.

Competition: Symantec Act 3.0, Maximizer 97, and even Microsoft Outlook 97 also cover the basics of contact management, scheduling, call monitoring, and project tracking. But none has the depth of GoldMine—though all are a little easier to learn.

System Requirements: Windows 95 or NT 4.0, 486 CPU, 16MB of RAM, 25MB of hard disk space.

\$895 list price for five-user network license
GoldMine Software Corp.
(800) 654-3526
(310) 454-6800
Enter 625 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

Guide to the Ratings:

★★★★★ Excellent

★★★★ Good

★★★ Acceptable

★★ Poor

★ Unacceptable



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THEIR BACK POCKET. LIKE A COLOR PRESENTATION.**

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Simple CD Recording

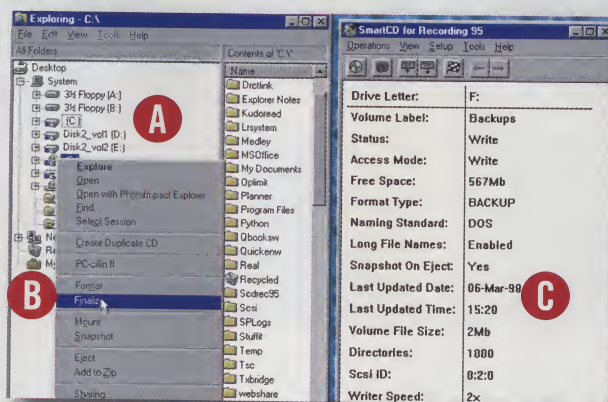
They don't call it burning for nothing. A few more bad CD recording sessions and you may get a little hot under the collar yourself. One wrong move and you have yet another shiny cocktail coaster. Two new products, Smart Storage SmartCD for Recording 95 and Elektroson Gear Audio, make recording CDs as easy as copying files to a floppy.

Get Smart If you want to use your CD-R drive and a blank disk just like a 680MB hard drive, get Smart Storage SmartCD for Recording 95. It even works across a network, letting you access it by drive letter. Just make sure your CD-R drive supports variable packet writing (most new ones do), or the software won't work.

SmartCD integrates seamlessly into Windows 95. You can format a blank disc in just a few seconds from the included interface, by right-clicking on the drive icon, or within Microsoft Windows Explorer. Choose between formatting discs in the standard format, or in a special backup format that eliminates naming and file-size constrictions, and adds automatic password protection to the disc.

SmartCD lets you read ISO-formatted discs on any CD-ROM by using the Finish option. And you can remount the disc later and write more files, though you can't erase files you've already recorded. Discs created with the backup format run on any Windows PC using a small utility that needs to be installed only once.

Once formatted, the disc can be used like a hard drive. You can use Windows Explorer or any file manager to save files just as you would to a floppy or hard drive. Saving files takes longer,



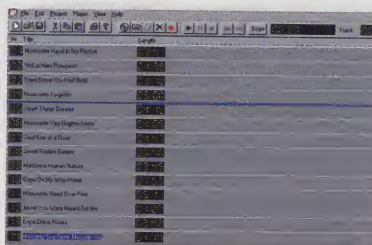
Feel the Burn: Create CDs like a pro with Smart Storage SmartCD for Recording 95 (above) and Elektroson Gear Audio. SmartCD lets you use a recordable CD just like a hard drive, and gives you password protection.

A. Copy files to your CD-R drive from within Windows Explorer or using any file manager.

B. Format, finalize, mount, and create a disc snapshot by right-clicking on the disc icon.

C. The main SmartCD interface provides disc info and diagnostic and recovery utilities.

Mix It Up: Gear Audio makes it easy to create a list of songs, rearrange them, and copy them to CD.



but is still more than twice as fast as saving with a parallel-port Zip drive. You can even delete a file (although while invisible, it can still be recovered).

With easy installation, diagnostic, and recovery tools, and the ability to take multiple snapshots of the directory structure (and then restore that directory structure later), SmartCD is a winner. Its packet-writing approach has only a 70K overhead per packet, using disc space more efficiently. This is the future of CD-R.

Now Hear This On the audio front, Gear Audio makes it a snap to grab your favorite songs from audio CDs just by putting them in your CD-R

drive and selecting the tracks from a pop-up menu. Gear Audio records the songs to your hard drive in minutes, where you can arrange them with other songs and master them into a brand-new CD.

You can also mix in other WAV files and edit the music tracks in any sound editor. It's all very simple, and Gear Audio automatically filters out clicks and pops (but not hissing, noise, or static) from old records and tapes that you digitize using your sound card. Gear Audio uses cyclical buffering, so even resource-strapped systems make great CDs. Gear Audio's only drawback is that it's a one-trick product. For example,

FILEBOX

SmartCD for Recording 95



Verdict: Pitch the software that came with your CD-R drive—this is the way to do it.

Pros: Integrates into Windows 95; simple to use; creates discs readable in any CD-ROM drive; password-protectable discs; easy archive recovery.

Cons: Works only with CD-R drives that support variable packet writing; expensive.

\$425 est. street price
Smart Storage
(888) 479-0100, (978) 623-3300
Enter 626 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

Gear Audio



Verdict: An easy way to create your own custom music CDs that work in any CD player.

Pros: Easy to use; cyclical buffers use less resources.

Cons: Limited audio cleaning; no audio editor; no automated track separation.

\$99 est. street price, \$79 download
Elektroson
(408) 371-4800
Enter 627 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

Adaptec's Easy CD Creator Deluxe includes similar features, plus more audio cleaning options, label creation, audio editing, and full premastering software.

Still think CD-R drives are too much trouble? Then you owe it to yourself to check out these two packages. Gear Audio makes recording CDs easy and painless, while SmartCD's integration with Windows 95 makes it as easy to record CDs as it is to copy floppies. **GEOFFREY WILLIAMS**

Guide to the Ratings:



Excellent



Good



Acceptable



Poor



Unacceptable



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Infolink 240 at: www.pccomputing.com/infolink

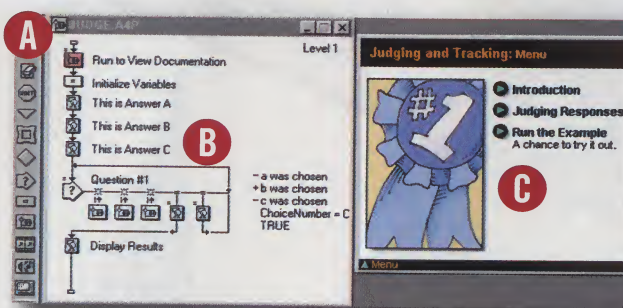
Teach Your Office a Lesson

If you want the job done right, you have to train your employees well. Unfortunately, that's easier said than done. Why not let them learn the latest policies themselves? Macromedia's Authorware has long been the leader in computer-based training. Now with Authorware 4.0 Interactive Studio, you can take your training to the Web.

Authorware 4.0 Interactive Studio has an extraordinarily powerful set of tools that offer everything technology-based training specialists need. Unfortunately, it isn't cheap or easy to master. The full studio costs \$2,999 (Authorware 4.0 alone is \$1,999).

Learning Curve Make no mistake: Mastering this product takes some time. Calling this a studio is a stretch; the included products aren't well integrated, there's no common look and feel, and even the underlying metaphors for the two main components, Director 6 and Authorware 4.0, are very different. Authorware specialists might be clueless about Director or vice versa. And since Authorware uses a proprietary scripting language (Lingo) instead of industry standards like JavaScript or VBScript, you should plan on hiring a team or spending a few weekends with your nose in the manuals.

Once you're accustomed to the tools, however, there's little you can't do. Along with Authorware and Director, Interactive Studio includes Sonic Foundry's Sound Forge XP, Macromedia Xres, and BackStage, giving you all the tools you need to edit sound, edit images, set up an entire Web site from scratch, and make some killer multimedia.

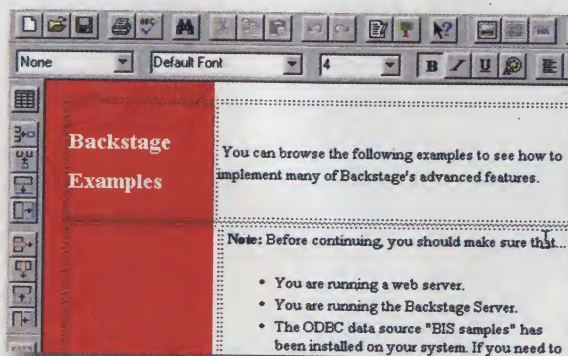


Lesson One: Nobody wants to read a textbook, especially if it's about company policy. Macromedia Authorware 4.0 Interactive Studio lets you create a PC-based training course with the tools to make it more entertaining than school recess.

A. Plenty of prebuilt navigational tools let you structure your lessons quickly.

B. Visualize your lesson composition and lesson paths with a simple line diagram.

C. A preview window lets you take your training creations for a test run.



Postgraduate: With the included Backstage software, you can turn your lessons into Web pages and manage them from anywhere.

Interactive Studio builds courses on a hierarchical, linear metaphor that makes it easier to visualize virtual courses. For example, you can set up variables that take you to different parts of the training, depending on how you answered quiz questions—all from a simple line diagram.

Along with the standard question-and-answer motif, you can spice up your training with Web links, Microsoft ActiveX controls, SQL database information, even Director

movies. However, you can't easily include Java applets.

Well-Schooled Want to put your training course on the Web? Just send it through the Macromedia Shockwave converter as you would a Director movie. Of course, anyone taking the training needs the Shockwave plug-in (for Netscape Navigator) or the ActiveX control equivalent (for Microsoft Internet Explorer). And unfortunately, it isn't the same Shockwave plug-in you'd use for Director-based Web

creations. But if your training is established on your intranet, sending out the plug-in is easy enough.

While you need to get well-schooled yourself to take full advantage of Interactive Studio, the end results are worth it. And with all the tools you get for spinning in some flashy eye-candy or managing your Web-based training creations, the price may seem less daunting. It sure costs less than building a classroom in your office.

GARY CORNELL

FILEBOX

Macromedia Authorware 4.0 Interactive Studio



Verdict: The tools to train your people any way you want, but you'll have a lot of learning to do yourself.

Pros: Great bundle includes all you need to put your computer-based training up on the Web; packed with multimedia.

Cons: Steep learning curve; proprietary scripting language; suite not well integrated.

Competition: WBT Systems TopClass is easier to use, but it's strictly HTML-based and it isn't good for multimedia-packed stand-alone courses. Asymetrix ToolBook II Assistant is also easier to use but isn't as powerful.

System Requirements:

Windows 95, 486 CPU, 16MB of RAM, 85MB of hard disk space, CD-ROM drive, Creative Labs Sound Blaster sound card, QuickTime and AVI support.

\$2,999 for Interactive Studio, \$1,999 for Authorware 4.0 stand-alone, est. street prices
Macromedia
(800) 326-2128, (415) 252-2000
Enter 628 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

Guide to the Ratings:



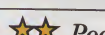
Excellent



Good



Acceptable



Poor



Unacceptable

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Solid and reliable solutions.



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www.matrox.com/mga/pcc

* Estimated Street Price. All performance tests conducted by Matrox Graphics Inc. Windows 95 tests conducted on a Dell P2-300 with 512K cache and 64 MB of RAM. Matrox Millennium II, Matrox Mystique 220 Business, ATI Xpert@Work, Diamond Viper V330, and STB Velocity 128 were tested using driver revisions 3.80, 3.80, 4.10.2278, 4.10.01.0015, and 4.10.01.0111 respectively. WinBench 98 High End tests were conducted at 1024x768@24-bit at 75 Hz using small fonts under Windows 95. All trademarks are the property of their respective owners.

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Matrox Millennium II (8 MB)	192
Matrox Mystique 220 Business (4 MB)	185
Diamond Viper V330 (4 MB)	171
ATI Xpert@Work (8 MB)	142
STB Velocity 128 (4 MB)	130

matrox

1-800-583-4353 <http://www.matrox.com/mga>

Make an Impact with Web Graphics

Whether you scan them in or snap them with a digital camera, your pictures will probably wind up in a photo editor for some needed touch-up work. Most of these digital darkroom programs are in one of two distinct camps: simple, project-oriented products such as Adobe Systems' PhotoDeluxe and Microsoft's Picture It, or sophisticated, artsy products like Adobe Photoshop. Is there anything in between?

Ulead Systems' PhotoImpact 4 tries to cover that middle ground, with the Web as the link between too much and too little. Like Photoshop, PhotoImpact 4 is a free-form image editor with a wealth of tools, and special emphasis on Web page design. But it's also a \$99 program aimed at more casual business users who work with presentations and documents. It doesn't fully capture the flavor of either end of the spectrum, but it does represent a tasteful compromise between the two.

Creative Side PhotoImpact 4 doesn't carefully walk you through the process of loading, touching up, and applying pictures the way consumer-oriented image products do. But this version adds a Post Processing Wizard that visually steps you through basic functions, such as straightening, cropping, focusing, color balancing, framing, and removing the red-eye effect of flash photos.

The program also does a great job of tempting you to get creative with its redesigned EasyPalette feature. A visual gallery of special effects, EasyPalette now gives you thumbnail previews



Photo Ops: If you're intimidated by Adobe Photoshop but need more power than the average consumer photo editor provides, Ulead Systems' PhotoImpact 4 is a nice middle ground.

Sneak Preview: Before you do anything drastic to your images, EasyPalette gives you thumbnail previews of different effects.



A. Unlike many photo editors, PhotoImpact 4 emphasizes Web production.

B. PhotoImpact 4 offers advanced features that consumer packages lack, like color management.

C. Perform basic touch-ups like red-eye removal with the Post Processing Wizard.

of how different treatments can change your picture. It's a simple and effective visual decision-maker.

PhotoImpact 4 has some interesting new touches, such as particle filters that let you easily add natural effects like rain, lightning, snow, and bubbles. Warping lets you control random patterns on images. There are new painting and text effects as well. Perhaps the most interesting addition (though maybe not the most useful) is Real-Time Transformation, which lets you twist and shape images using your mouse. A variety of paper tear and frame effects, some of them in 3-D,

let you add finishing touches. PhotoImpact 4 doesn't necessarily pile on the design tools, but it does include all the basics you need as well as improved Text and Path tools with 3-D styles.

Online Images PhotoImpact's WebExtensions get a big boost in version 4. Button and background design tools are more automatic and produce better-looking graphics. The GIF Animator now has some fancy transition effects and supports QuickTime and AVI files. There are a few new features too: You can create a seamless, self-tiling pattern from any portion of a photo, and new grid and partition

features give you more precise control over Web page design. PhotoImpact 4 also includes an Album utility for creating Web slide shows and managing a database of images (including taking on the role as an OLE2 broker between server and client applications).

Can PhotoImpact 4 be all things to all people? Not likely. It can't replace easier products for simple touch-ups and more complex products for serious surgery—and it shouldn't. However, it may be just the right size and price if you've got a little time for creativity and one eye on the Web.

CHRIS O'MALLEY

FILEBOX

PhotoImpact 4



Verdict: Turn your PC into a sophisticated digital darkroom for less than \$100.

Pros: Affordable price; easy-to-use touch-up wizard and visual effects.

Cons: Requires more time, learning, and creative instincts than simple project-oriented products.

Competition: Adobe PhotoDeluxe and Microsoft Picture It are easier to use and less expensive, but have far fewer design tools and Web options. Adobe Photoshop and Corel Photo-Paint are more costly but have more powerful tools and effects.

System Requirements:

Windows 95 or Windows NT, 90MHz Pentium, 16MB of RAM, 120MB of hard disk space, CD-ROM drive.

\$99 est. street price
 Ulead Systems
 (800) 858-5323
 Enter 629 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

Guide to the Ratings:



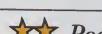
Excellent



Good



Acceptable



Poor



Unacceptable

wherever you work, it works.

It works in design.

ePhoto 1280's fast transmission speed lets you see your ideas in no time.

It works in insurance.

ePhoto 1280 is great for expediting claims. And with 1.2 million pixel resolution, all those little details won't escape your eye.

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ePhoto 1280's EasyPilot lets you access all functions with one button. Because your hands are full enough as it is.

It works in health care.

ePhoto 1280's 4MB removable memory can handle volumes of information to help you keep track of patients and their medical records.

It works in construction.

The ePhoto 1280's 2" LCD screen gives you a sharp view of what you're shooting. Even in bright daylight conditions.

It works in law enforcement.

ePhoto 1280's software makes it easy to collect the evidence, then display, archive, categorize and retrieve it.

It works in real estate.

ePhoto 1280's 3x swivel zoom lens lets you shoot from any angle to make that house look even better.



ePhoto™ 1280.

The fast, easy, accurate digital camera that's perfect for your job. Features FlashTrack™ 3x swivel zoom lens. EasyPilot™ control button for easy access to all functions. 2" high-quality LCD screen for instant viewing and editing. Comes complete with Agfa PhotoWise™ software, for fast preview and selective download (Windows® 95, Windows NT™ or Macintosh® OS 7.0), slide presentations, archiving and more. Agfa PhotoGenie™ picture enhancement software for image adjustment and high-resolution printing of up to 1.2 million pixels (1280 x 960 resolution). And Agfa PhotoWise QuickLink™ which lets you drag and drop photos directly into open documents. 4MB SSFDC SmartMedia™ removable memory card stores up to 60 photos. Also includes cable for PC or Macintosh, standard NTSC/PAL cable for TV viewing, batteries and wrist strap.

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In Canada, please call 1-800-268-1331, ext. 4032, or fax 416-241-5409.

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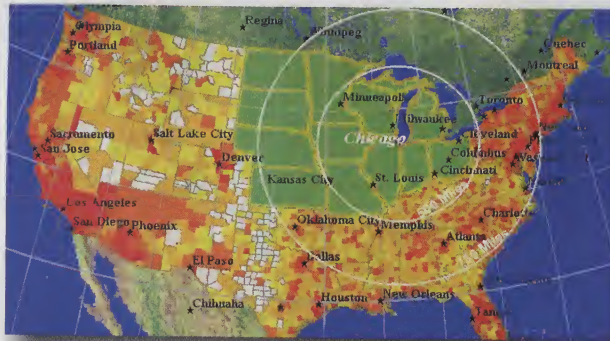
Infolink 169 at: www.pccomputing.com/infolink

Put Your Company on the Map

A good map is a secret weapon in business. Plotting data geographically can unlock dozens of ideas for your company. ERDAS MapSheets comes with tons of Geographic Information System (GIS) data and makes creating sophisticated maps a snap. Simply load one of the included map-data sets—say, a satellite picture of Florida. Then load in the roads file, and area roads appear. Add in some appropriate legends, then print or publish to HTML.

MapSheets requires Microsoft Excel to show numerical values associated with the map. For example, if a map shows acreage of undeveloped vs. developed land, Excel displays the actual values.

MapSheets is a great business asset. Data is presented as



North by Northwest: Providing tons of information using included GIS data, MapSheets offers an easy way to make sophisticated, layered maps.

layers, so it's easy to add precise information to a map. Multiband layers consist of satellite images, thematic layers with data as detailed as soil types, and drawing layers containing boundaries and roads.

Over a gigabyte of map data

is included on two CD-ROMs. You get detailed North American data, right down to highways and county boundaries. MapSheets imports data in ERDAS IMG, ESRI SHP, GEO-TIFF, and JPEG. It exports a propriety MapSheets format as

well as HTML and JPEG.

Unfortunately, the HTML code only displays the JPEG image; there's no built-in support for clickable Web image maps. Even so, MapSheets makes great information-rich maps.

JIM BURTON

FILEBOX

MapSheets



Verdict: A powerful way to plot graphical information.

Pros: Easy to use; lets you include information beyond geographic data; includes more than 1GB of in-depth map data.

Cons: Requires Excel to display numerical values; pricey.

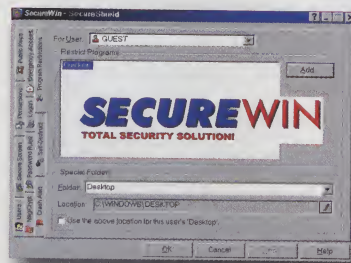
\$495 est. street price
ERDAS
(404) 248-9000
Enter 633 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

Cipher Logics SecureWin 1.5 Personal Edition

Snoop-Proof Your PC

Look out! Not much is stopping snoops, spies, or prying eyes from sneaking a peek at your data. Cipher Logics' SecureWin 1.5 Personal Edition, an all-in-one desktop security suite for your Windows 95 PC, provides an affordable, comprehensive solution to safeguarding your files. And at only \$40, you get a lot for your money.

SecureWin supports six encryption methods, including the popular and theoretically hack-proof RSA public-key method. One of the best features of SecureWin is that it supports multiple security accounts on the same PC. Organize your accounts



Lock and Key: SecureWin PE restricts file access and limits when some applications can run.

hierarchically to give administrators, for example, more privileges than regular users.

To protect files, you simply designate a directory as secured by hitting the appropriate button. All the directory's files

are encrypted and decrypted quickly and transparently.

SecureWin 1.5 goes beyond simply protecting your files, offering e-mail encryption and decryption, secure file deletion, and an emergency access function that acts as a backup key into the system if you forget or lose passwords. The breadth of security SecureWin

offers is probably more than any typical business user would ever need, but given its low price and ease of use, it's a solid choice for anyone wanting a little extra peace of mind.

DAVID GERDING

FILEBOX

SecureWin 1.5 Personal Edition



Verdict: Keeps your data safe from prying eyes.

Pros: Easy setup; on-the-fly encryption makes protecting files transparent; supports six encryption methods and multiple security accounts on the same PC.

Cons: E-mail utilities don't integrate with e-mail clients.

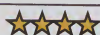
System Requirements: Windows 95, 386 CPU, 4MB of RAM, 6MB of hard disk space.

\$40 est. street price
Cipher Logics
(800) 524-9730, (301) 762-5458
Enter 634 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

Guide to the Ratings:



Excellent



Good



Acceptable



Poor



Unacceptable

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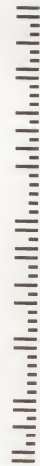
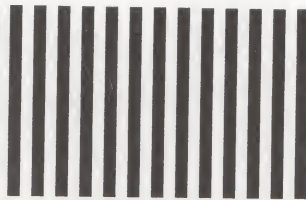
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O F F I C E



Meet Josh. He makes regular deliveries to Austin Acres. Once a small town garden supply company. Now a worldwide lawn equipment manufacturer that needs a big-time place to put all its stuff. That's why the Zip® drive and genuine 100MB Zip disks are perfect for Austin Acres and growing businesses like yours. They give you the freedom to carry stuff between the office, home, school, greenhouse, or wherever life takes you. Each Zip disk holds as much as 70 floppies. It's like having your own digital briefcase with more than enough room to store multimedia presentations, Internet downloads, months' worth of e-mails from your server, business records, and even pink flamingo orders. And with over 10 million drives out there, it's easy to see why people are getting carried away with the Zip drive.



Standard 100MB Zip disks for as low as \$12.95 each when purchased in 10-packs.

C O U R I E R



W O R K



Here's Carol, the lead engineer behind some of the most innovative weed-whacking devices around. She looks like a happy camper. Well, she is, because she uses a Jaz® drive. With over a million drives out there, lots of people are using the Jaz drive to help their businesses grow. The Jaz drive is perfect for storage-intense users and will definitely create more elbow room around the office. It's portable too—so you can take your stuff anywhere. With Jaz 1GB drives and cartridges, and the upcoming 2GB* drive, you'll have tons of room to store huge graphics, customer database files, or back up your entire hard drive. Along with the help of the new Buz Multimedia Producer™, you'll be able to edit video and



give knock-out multimedia presentations. Stretch out, you've got room.



1GB Jaz cartridges start as low as \$89.95 when purchased in 3-packs.

SPACE



C O R P O R A T E



Whoa, hold on there. This is George, head security guard. He makes sure everything is secure. But when it comes to securing your data, nothing works better than a Ditto Max™ drive.

It's like insurance for all the important business stuff on your computer. The Ditto Max backup solution, available with 3GB, 5GB, and 7GB compressed* capacity cartridges, is a heavyweight equipped to protect today's high-capacity hard drives. Whether they're year-end financial reports, tax records, top-secret formulas for greener lawns, or customer databases—Ditto Max drive protection is sure to make you feel nice and safe. And you'll feel even safer knowing it's from Iomega, the leader in personal storage solutions. So get a Ditto Max drive because, as you know, accidents can happen.

Not just on the lawn.



The Ditto Max drive handles 3GB, 5GB, and 7GB compressed* capacity cartridges.

SECURITY



P U B L I C



Actual size.

Say hello to Susan. She's a people person. As the head of Corporate PR, she is always on the road, bringing people together. From parties to conventions to shareholder meetings, she needs a cool way to take her stuff wherever she goes. Coming later this year for people on the go, there's Klik!™ the new 40MB matchbook-size solution for portable digital devices. Susan could use Klik! disks as a "digital roll of film" to transfer the photos of the annual party onto her sub-notebook and post them on the intranet, bringing her global company closer together. Klik! disks will allow portable devices like digital cameras, handheld PCs, PDAs, printers, and projection systems to truly interact, doing more and sharing more with each other. And with OEM support continually growing, lots of handheld devices will have Klik! drives built right in. Just think, with Klik! products, you could party on into the next millennium.



Klik! disks: 40MB of space
for under ten bucks.

R E L A T I O N S

The Iomega Zip® drive.
The Capacity To Do More.™



Portability

100MB Zip disks are removable and the drive is portable. So you can shuttle your work stuff home, to the airport, to a client, and ultimately, back to work.

Organization and Expansion

Take control of your personal and business affairs with a Zip drive. Not only will you look good, but it's an inexpensive alternative to hard drive expansion. Use one disk for your yearly financial spreadsheets and forecasts, and another for hefty multimedia presentations. With 100 megs per disk, you'll have plenty of room for more.

Backup

You know you have a lot of files you wouldn't want to lose. So secure all your important stuff on Zip disks.

Iomega Ditto Max™ tape backup.
It's Like Insurance For The
Important Stuff On Your PC.™



Security

The Iomega Ditto™ family of drives is designed to protect all your important computer stuff. Whether it's the Ditto 2GB* drive, the Ditto Max drive, or the new 10GB* Ditto Max Professional drive, you'll truly have peace of mind.

Backup

Our 1-Step™ backup software makes backing up a breeze. And FullBack™ System Recovery software for Windows® or Windows NT® lets you rest easy, knowing you can bring the data from a completely lost system back from brown-outs, hard drive crashes, and those "I-swear-I-had-it-yesterday" situations.

S T O R A G E

The Iomega Jaz® drive.
The Super-Fast, Extremely Vast
Personal Storage Drive.™



Capacity

Iomega Jaz 1GB drives and cartridges, and the upcoming 2GB drive, comfortably accommodate huge graphics, a hefty database, even rockin' A/V files. And since the disks are portable, you can take them anywhere.

Performance

The Jaz drive can rip through files. It's fast enough to store and run applications, and since Jaz disks have lots of capacity, backing up your hard drive will be even easier.

Coming later this year, the Iomega Klik!™ drive.
The 40MB matchbook-size solution for
portable digital devices.



Handheld Capacity

A single 40MB Klik! disk can store approximately 40 near 35mm-quality (mega-pixel) digital photographs, or 400 10-page Microsoft® Word documents, or 25 10-page PowerPoint® presentations with graphics, or up to 4 hours of voice dictation.* Whew! That's a lot of stuff.

Possibilities

Klik! disks can make digital cameras, sub-notebooks, HPCs, projectors, cellular phones, PDAs, and global positioning systems even more functional and compatible. And who knows what other uses will be invented for Klik! disks. The future is up for grabs.

S O L U T I O N S

BUILT-IN SOLUTIONS



The Iomega Zip drive is the
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removable storage.

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manufacturers who are building
Iomega drives right into
their systems.

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business service centers around the country that have
made Iomega the standard.

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how you can organize your business with
Iomega storage solutions.

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www.iomega.com/bizsolutions



BECAUSE IT'S YOUR STUFF.™

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Use only genuine Zip disks featuring this symbol  in your Zip drive.



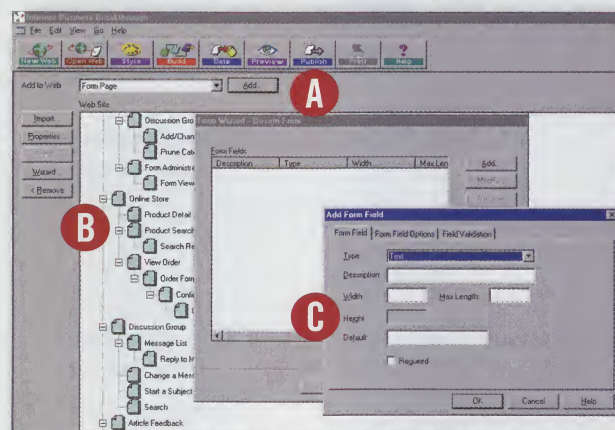
Web Retailing for the Masses

If you want to set up shop on the Net but don't want to spend thousands of dollars to do so, help has arrived. Internet Business Breakthrough (IBB) from Breakthrough Software offers what until now has been just a dream: an easy-to-use, well-designed tool to help small and medium-size businesses get started on the Web—for just \$249.

Point and Sell Despite its low price, IBB delivers a first-class experience. You build your site piece by piece, starting with a name. You then choose from 50 prebuilt visual styles or templates that suit most small businesses.

The store portion of the program uses an internal database to manage inventory and orders. A dialog box prompts you to set up your products and categories, and then add images so customers can see what they're ordering. Those with larger inventories can quickly set up product categories, then import information from other files.

In addition to the store catalog and ordering features, IBB lets you polish your site with customer-friendly features like a site-wide search engine, discussion groups, and customer-



Let's Do Business: Don't take out a second mortgage just to start an online business. Set up a sound, secure online store with Internet Business Breakthrough in just a few hours—for only \$249.

A. When your site is ready, click on the Publish button to upload it to your ISP.

B. The Build window is where you lay out all the parts of your site hierarchically.

C. The customer form creator lets you design forms easily.

feedback forms. The feedback form is a good example of IBB's subtle sophistication. You can design a variety of complex fields using radio buttons and text fields, and have customers' responses sent to you via e-mail. IBB automatically appends the new information for you, or you can update the database manually.

It's easy to preview the look of your store using the built-in browser and editor. We pub-

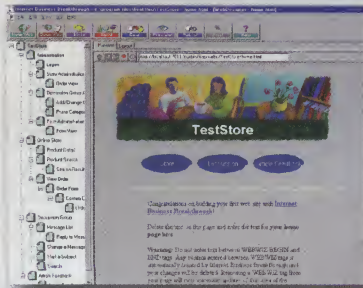
lished a complete store to the Web with one product and a variety of accessories in under 40 minutes. Even large operations can have an online store up and running in a few hours if they import inventory from a database.

Fine Print IBB is an excellent solution, but there are a few trade-offs. Your site must be published to one of a half-dozen ISPs that have partnered with Breakthrough Software to handle the unique server activity. IBB is busy signing up other ISPs to give you more options. Currently, site-hosting fees are about \$100 a month, and include secure connections for protecting order information such as credit card numbers. And while it's easy to use, IBB lacks the customer-specific merchandising tools found in

higher-priced packages. Most important, IBB doesn't handle real-time transaction processing, so it's up to you to process order information using the credit card information captured at your site. Also, you won't find the ability to customize your store as you would in other packages. For example, in IBB you cannot tailor your storefront to automatically match particular customers' interests.

Other companies charge thousands of dollars for comparable programs, so for now, Internet Business Breakthrough is the best choice for small businesses and individuals who want to take the leap into online commerce. It's not the most powerful or flexible option, but it won't bankrupt your online business before it gets started, either. **DAVE GERDING**

Shop Talk: The software comes with plenty of templates and its own internal database. All you have to do is decide what you want to sell.



Guide to the Ratings:



Excellent



Good



Acceptable



Poor



Unacceptable

The Web Site of Your Dreams

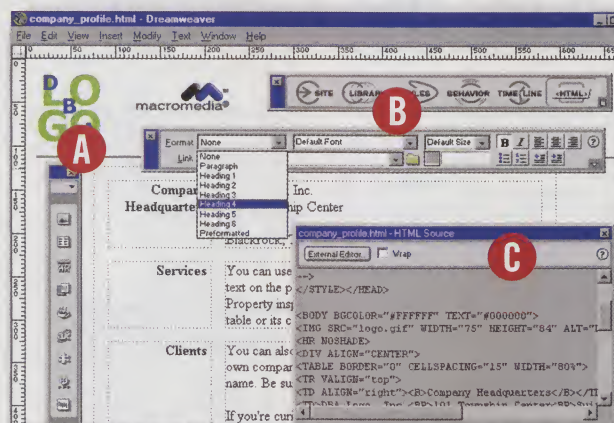


There used to be only two types of Web publishing tools: easy, visual tools, such as Microsoft FrontPage 98, aimed at newbies and nonprogrammers; and hard-core HTML code editors, such as SoftQuad HotMetal Pro 4.0, built for serious site developers concerned with accurate, clean source code. And until now, there was no middle ground.

Enter Macromedia Dreamweaver, a \$499 graphical Web authoring tool that promises not to muck up your hand-coded HTML. We tested a beta version of Dreamweaver and were impressed with how well it preserved the integrity of our HTML source code. We used an HTML editor to create a Web page, then opened the page in Dreamweaver and saved the page. Not only did Dreamweaver retain the original code's structure and formatting, it didn't even add a meta tag to mark that the document was created in Dreamweaver.

By Design Dreamweaver's interface is similar to that of other graphical Web design programs. You begin by typing text directly on a blank page or by importing an image, Java applet, ActiveX control, Shockwave animation, or other element. Thanks to Dreamweaver's series of floating windows, you're only a mouse-click away from its most popular features. To read the HTML source code for your page, for instance, simply click on the HTML button in the Launcher window, which loads the HTML text box. The drag-and-drop tools make it easy to create and edit tables and frames.

But if you've never written



Crack the Code: Want to build a Web page in a hurry? Macromedia Dreamweaver provides an extensive collection of floating windows and drag-and-drop tools. While you work, Dreamweaver automatically generates the necessary HTML.

Help Wanted: Dreamweaver's comprehensive help system uses your Web browser to give how-to advice in a familiar format.

a line of HTML (and don't intend to), Dreamweaver isn't the best Web design tool for you. Unlike novice-oriented authoring tools, Dreamweaver lacks template-based guides to walk you through the page-creation process. However, Dreamweaver's comprehensive help system, which runs in your Web browser, offers plenty of helpful advice for professional site designers.

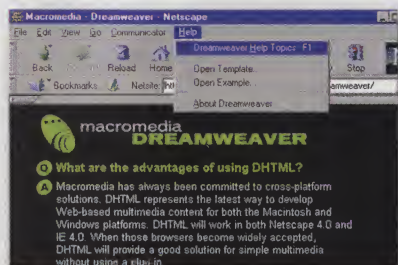
Precision Controls Web developers will also appreciate Dreamweaver's support for Dynamic HTML (DHTML),

an up-and-coming scripting language that gives you greater control than HTML over where you place text and images on the page. It also lets developers create animations and other multimedia effects without requiring plug-ins. Unfortunately, it might be a while before most professional site designers use DHTML extensively. While the 4.x versions of Microsoft Internet Explorer and Netscape Navigator support DHTML, earlier versions of the browsers do not. Dreamweaver generates DHTML code that runs in

A. The Launcher window provides one-click access to essential design tools.

B. Need an image, a table, or a multimedia element? Click on a button in the Object window.

C. Watch Dreamweaver generate HTML code—or write it yourself.



FILEBOX

Macromedia Dreamweaver



Verdict: A letter-perfect visual authoring tool for Web professionals and programmers.

Pros: Makes minimal changes to imported HTML code, unlike some Web page-layout programs; its drag-and-drop design tools make it easy to create and edit tables and frames; generates Dynamic HTML code that runs in both Microsoft and Netscape browsers.

Cons: Pricey; few hand-holding features for Web design newbies.

Competition: Popular Web page builders such as Adobe PageMill, NetObjects Fusion, and Microsoft FrontPage 98 match (and sometimes surpass) Dreamweaver when it comes to interface design and ease of use. But Dreamweaver does a better job of preserving the integrity of hand-coded HTML—an important feature for professional Web designers.

System Requirements:

75MHz Pentium, Windows 95 or NT 4.0, 24MB of RAM, 30MB of hard disk space.

\$299 until Feb. 28, \$499 thereafter, est. street prices
Macromedia
(800) 326-2128
Enter 639 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

both IE4 and Navigator—an important point, since the two browsers read and display DHTML differently. Dreamweaver also includes a copy of Allaire HomeSite 3.0, an HTML text editor.

Bottom line? Macromedia's new graphical Web authoring package should please professional site developers who want to preserve the integrity of their source code. **JEFF BERTOLUCCI**

Guide to the Ratings:



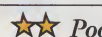
Excellent



Good



Acceptable



Poor



Unacceptable

microsoft
office 97

everything
else

another compatibility headache

Microsoft Office 97 is packed with hot new features that make it number one. But those same features make Office 97 file formats completely incompatible with previous versions of Office. Or with just about anything else for that matter.
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Just-in-Time Java Databases

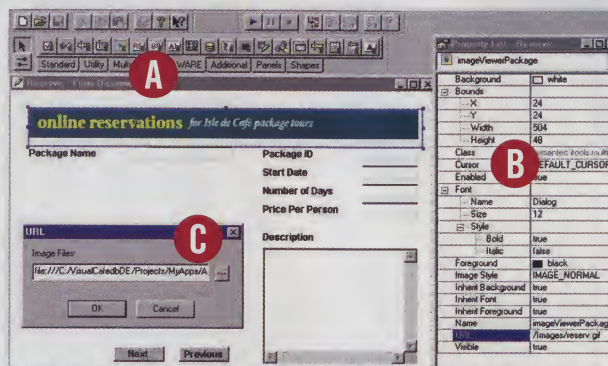
You're already running as fast as you can and now your company wants to put a database on the Web? Don't panic; it's easier than you think with the trio of new entrants to Symantec's Visual Cafe product line. These latest offerings boast JDK 1.1 support, JavaBeans, powerful database connections, and a first for visual Java programs—native code editing.

Symantec's Visual Cafe for Java series comes in three varieties: the \$99 Web Development Edition, the \$299 Professional Development Edition, and the powerful \$499 Database Development Edition.

Brass Tacks The Web Development Edition provides the Visual Cafe Java programming environment and Visual Page, an excellent Web page designer with limited site management tools. Its best feature is that it integrates nicely with Visual Cafe. Click on an HTML file in Cafe's file view, and Visual Page appears on-screen. Visual Page also runs Java applets and JavaScript, so you don't have to switch to a browser for testing.

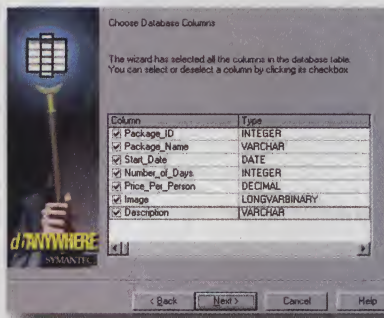
Visual Cafe also includes a Form Designer for fast development, but there are still some tasks that aren't exactly user-friendly. For example, a handy browse feature lets you insert a URL property for any file on your drive. However, it always provides an absolute URL. This presents a problem when you want to move the files to a different directory or to a server: You must edit the URLs one by one to make them relative. A Make URL Relative checkbox would be a nice time-saver.

Perfect for Pros The Professional Development Edition adds two outstanding features.



Well-Connected: Publish your database to the Web with Symantec's Visual Cafe for Java. The Database Development Edition provides airtight database publishing tools for hundreds less than the competition.

Mr. Wizard: The dbAware Project Wizard looks at a database and generates a visual layout in the Form Designer.



A. Drag and drop objects from the menu bars onto the Form Designer to build an applet or application.

B. The Property List reveals information about the selected object.

C. A handy browse function makes URL selection easy.

First, Incremental Debugging lets you make changes to variables on the fly so you can see the results immediately. This means you don't have to go back to the source code, change it, then recompile. The second new feature allows your application to be compiled as a native Win32 executable. Java applications are usually run under a Java virtual machine, which tends to slow things down. In contrast, Java applications saved as native code seem to run as fast as those compiled from C++.

The Database Development Edition includes everything

mentioned above plus a surprisingly easy-to-use database configuration system. You start by running the dbAware Project Wizard. It asks for information about your database, then creates a visual Java layout. Adjust the layout as necessary, then use the Interaction Wizard to specify what happens when a user changes a value or clicks on a button.

Database requests are handled by the JDBC-compatible dbAnywhere server. This allows unlimited connections to Microsoft Access and Sybase SQL Anywhere databases. Visual Cafe also sup-

FILEBOX

Symantec Visual Cafe for Java



Verdict: Everything you need to program a custom Java database—fast native code compiler included.

Pros: Supports JavaBeans and JDK 1.1; includes HTML layout program; optional native code generation; easy database connectivity with dbAnywhere server.

Cons: Visual designer still has some quirks; dbAnywhere runs on Windows only.

Competition: Compared with Borland JBuilder Professional, Visual Cafe provides more compatible database connectivity. JBuilder has a more handsome interface. Nothing can touch Visual Cafe's native code generation.

System Requirements: 90MHz Pentium, Windows 95 or Windows NT 4.0, 32MB of RAM, 30MB of hard disk space, CD-ROM, TCP/IP network, VGA graphics.

\$99 for Web Development Edition, \$299 for Professional Development Edition, \$499 for Database Development Edition, est. street prices
Symantec Corp.
(800) 441-7234, (541) 334-6054
Enter 640 at www.pccomputing.com/infoline

ports other databases, but the included server allows only 25 simultaneous connections to them.

The only problem with dbAnywhere is that it's restricted to Windows 95 and NT machines. If you're developing for clients that use Unix or Macintosh servers, you must either talk them into setting up a Windows server, or do without dbAnywhere. **JIM BURTON**

Guide to the Ratings:



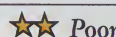
Excellent



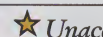
Good



Acceptable



Poor



Unacceptable

Going Up?

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ATI'S award winning All-in-Wonder Pro.



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With the TV Tuner's new instant replay feature you can take control of your TV viewing so you won't miss out on any action. Monitor your favourite channel in the background while using other applications. Display games and presentations out to a big screen TV. Accelerate 3D graphics to make your computer games explode and your design projects sizzle. Capture video from your TV, VCR, or camcorder and display high quality video, including MPEG, at full screen or in a window.

If you've wanted to upgrade your PC but didn't know which way to go – buy ATI's ALL-IN-WONDER PRO and get all of these upgrades for one price in one card.

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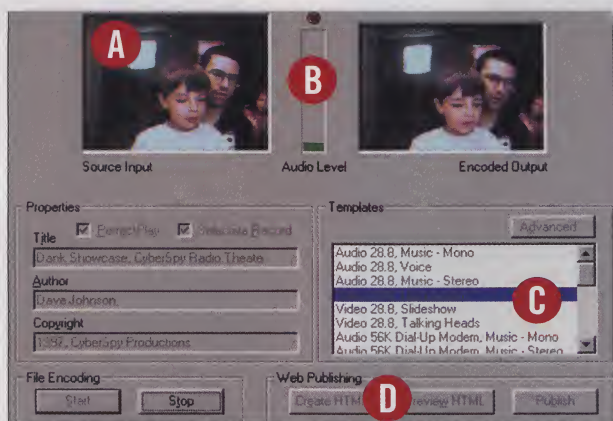


Web Flash Without the Wait

If you think real-time audio and video on the Internet are more trouble than they're worth, you haven't experienced RealNetworks' RealSystem 5.0. A suite of products that includes servers, content publishing tools, and client-side players, RealSystem 5.0 makes streaming multimedia on the Internet practical for developers—and enjoyable enough to keep Web surfers coming back.

Listen Here Improvements and additions to RealSystem's audio and video compression/decompression algorithms (Codecs) mean that Web audio sounds even better than original RealAudio clips at all bandwidths. Performance is noticeably better on a 28.8Kbps connection, and a new Codec has been designed expressly for 56Kbps modems. In fact, there are a host of new Codecs available that optimize performance for the gamut of users, from slow modems to very-high-bandwidth connections. You can even play video in a full screen, although we don't recommend it unless you are using a speedy ISDN or T-1 connection.

RealSystem 5.0 also introduces a new type of content. In addition to audio and video,



Real Impact: Create and deliver top-quality audio, video, and animation on the Web with RealSystem 5.0. The easy-to-use RealEncoder handles both audio and video development; after encoding, you're all set.

A. The **Source Input** window plays raw video.

B. A **clip meter** prevents audio distortion.

C. Choose **compression levels**.

D. The **Web Publishing wizard** is key.

the RealFlash vector-based animation system is now a part of RealSystem 5.0. That means that RealFlash animations can be synchronized with RealAudio and begin to play immediately when a visitor arrives on the page. It's very cool stuff that doesn't soak up a lot of bandwidth.

Pay to Play RealSystem 5.0's Commerce Solution Server has several tools designed for generating online revenue. You can insert advertisements into the beginning, middle, or

end of a media stream and manage them separately from the content. This means you don't need to remake a complete video segment just to change the commercials. Plus client-server authentication schemes make it practical to arrange both subscription and pay-per-view services.

Even novices can enhance their Web sites with streaming multimedia content. The easy-to-use RealEncoder combines both audio and video development. After encoding, you can import the media into RealPublisher, a program that generates Web pages and publishes them to the server in much the same way as Microsoft's Web Publishing Wizard. Professional results are easy to obtain, thanks to RealSystem's thoughtfully designed interface. If you let the encoder run unattended, a clip meter lets you know if the volume ever reaches unacceptably high levels during production.

FILEBOX

RealSystem 5.0



Verdict: The best way to create, publish, and view streaming video, audio, and animation on the Internet.

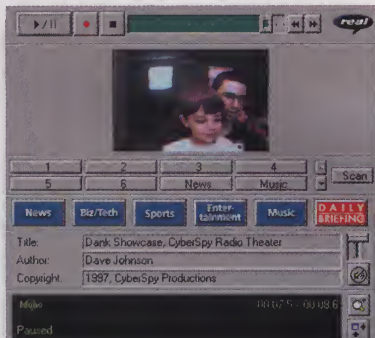
Pros: Easy to encode and publish streaming content; works with high-capacity RealServers or ordinary Web servers; good performance even at low bandwidth; the standard for streaming media on the Net.

Cons: Still requires a plug-in to enjoy content.

Free for 60-stream server;
\$6,995 for 100-stream server,
est. street price
RealNetworks
(800) 444-8011, (206) 674-2700
Enter 641 at www.pcmag.com/infocenter

Better Reception:

To receive RealServer content, site visitors still need to download the free RealPlayer client plug-in. A \$30 version of the player called RealPlayer Plus adds extras like preset channels.



Guide to the Ratings:



Excellent



Good



Acceptable



Poor



Unacceptable



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Bundled software lets you upload presentation slides into the PhotoPC 600. Simply connect to any projector or TV to present.



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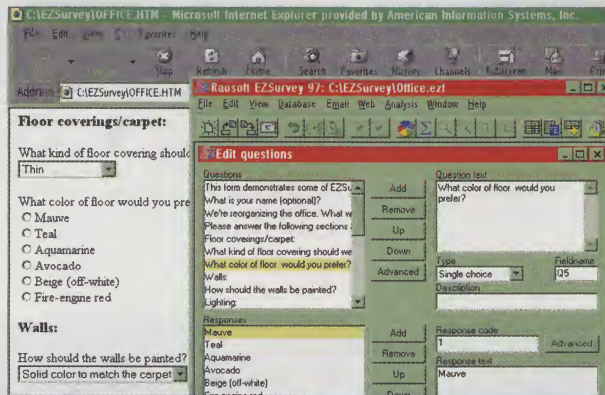
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Instant Online Feedback

So your market research team isn't paying off. Plus it's hard to get people to come in for focus groups, and direct mail can be so expensive. There is an alternative: Create, send, and receive e-mail or Web-based surveys over the Internet with Raosoft's \$399 EZSurvey 97.

Begin by designing a questionnaire. First, pick the types of questions you want—single choice, write-in text or number, rank scale, single list, and so on. Or select conditional questioning that skips to a different question depending on the person's answer.

Results from Web-based questionnaires are added to a database on your Web server. If you don't have access to CGI or a Web server, there's no



Survey Said? Publish surveys on the Web or via e-mail for on-the-fly reports with Raosoft's \$399 EZSurvey 97.

option to have the Web form results sent and read via e-mail. Instead, e-mail your surveys and the replies will automatically be read into the database if the responders type their

answers within the brackets.

EZSurvey has almost no options to vary the look of your questionnaire. Although the resulting charts and reports are easy to produce,

they're far from suitable for publication. If you want presentation-level results, use EZSurvey and then export your data to a spreadsheet program. **DAVID SPARK**

FILEBOX

EZSurvey 97



Verdict: The easiest way to hear what people have to say on the Net.

Pros: Questionnaires are easy to edit; forms support conditional branching; processes e-mail responses.

Cons: Reports and graphs are not editable; expensive.

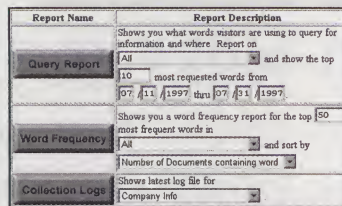
\$399 est. street price
Raosoft
(206) 525-4025
Enter 642 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

Quadralay WebWorks Search 2.0

Make Your Site Easy to Search

Sure, you've got a slick new Web site. But if it's not well-indexed, visitors may never get to the good stuff. Quadralay's \$495 WebWorks Search 2.0 will help your surfing fans find exactly what they want.

WebWorks Search lets you index your site from a Web-based interface. Although installation was easy, we wondered what to do next—a quick-start guide would have been helpful. Setup was trickier; we spent more time with the manual than anyone should have to. On the upside, the Web-based interface provided a familiar way to create collections of documents for organized topics, and it was easy to select



Lost and Found: Quadralay's \$495 WebWorks Search 2.0 makes your entire site searchable. It also tells you who is searching for what.

those collections at search time.

You can create search pages using this same Web-based interface or add searching capabilities to your existing Web pages. Search results are returned in an HTML table and

can be ranked by a number of attributes. Want to know what visitors are looking for on your site? WebWorks Search generates reports about the words users search on, as well as word frequencies in indexed documents.

WebWorks Search is for indexing HTML documents only, so if you need to index Microsoft Word or other files, check out Digital Equipment's AltaVista Search family. It's also pricey—especially when you consider that Microsoft's Index Server offers nearly as many features, is easier to use, and is available for free. **CHRIS KINSMAN**

FILEBOX

WebWorks Search 2.0



Verdict: Fast search engine for your site, but kiss your weekend goodbye during setup.

Pros: Create search and result forms without HTML.

Cons: Indexes HTML only; expensive; difficult to set up.

System Requirements: 486 CPU, Windows 95 or NT, 32MB of RAM, 5MB of hard disk space, Web server software that supports CGI or ISAPI.

\$495 est. street price
Quadralay Corp.
(512) 719-3399
Enter 643 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

Guide to the Ratings:



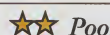
Excellent



Good



Acceptable



Poor



Unacceptable

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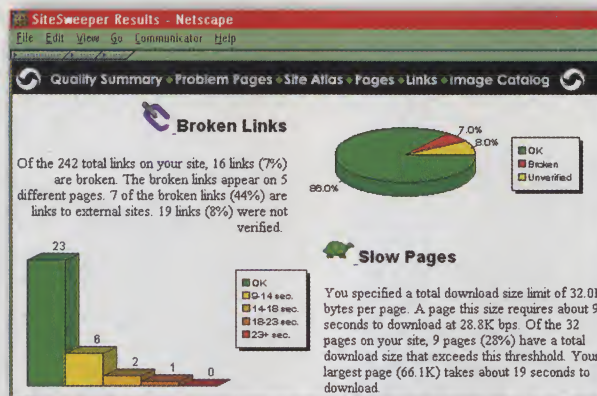
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Analyze Your Web Site

Does performing your daily Webmaster tasks feel more like an aerobics workout? You check for broken links, trim pages, update content, and repeat. Exhausted? Relieve yourself of click-around fatigue with Site Technologies' \$495 SiteSweeper 2.0.

SiteSweeper is a visually attractive and well-organized Web management tool that inventories your site, pointing out problems with image tags, metatags, titles, broken links, and large pages that take too long to load. Detailed Java-enabled reports range from attractive but useless pie charts to extremely useful categorized error lists. Plus it creates a catalog that includes thumbnails of all the images on your Web site.



Does Your Dirty Work: SiteSweeper 2.0 produces great analysis on your site, but it costs you plenty.

Unfortunately, SiteSweeper does too little for its price. For the same price, Mercury Interactive's \$495 Astra SiteManager also maps your site and summarizes log reports. For a much

lower price, EveryWare's \$299 InContext WebAnalyzer includes a site map. (For a review of both products, see "Map Your Way to a Better Web Site," April 1997, page 124.)

FILEBOX

SiteSweeper 2.0



Verdict: A sharp site manager that simply doesn't do enough for the price.

Pros: Great reports; view results by type of error or all errors on Web page.

Cons: No site map; no associations to HTML or image editors; expensive.

\$495 list price
Site Technologies
(800) 446-6955, (408) 461-3017
Enter 644 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

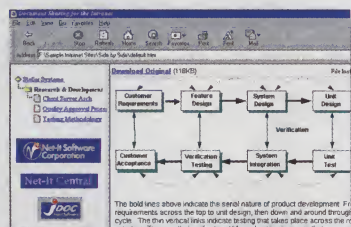
Until Site Technologies drops SiteSweeper's price or adds needed features like site maps, there are better tools out there for keeping your Web site fit and trim. **DAVID SPARK**

Net-It Software Net-It Central

Share Documents with Java

Who cares if the marketing department uses Macs and your workgroup runs Windows—you just need to trade files. Unfortunately, that's easier said than done. Starting at \$1,995, Net-It Software's Net-It Central publishes Java-based electronic documents that anyone with a Web browser can view.

There's no messing with HTML with Net-It, and you don't have to hire a Webmaster for maintenance. Just create a directory structure, put the documents into appropriate folders, and tell Net-It to go to work. Net-It converts the documents, then places the appropriate HTML and Java code



Easy Read: Net-It Software's Net-It Central lets you publish and share Java-based documents via the Internet or an intranet.

right into your Web server.

It's simple to navigate through the documents, and you can download the original document for editing. But the programs in which the documents were created must reside

on the same machine as Net-It, since it uses them for conversion. At this price you'd expect Net-It to include a translator like Inso's QuickView.

Net-It provides a close match to the original document—but not an exact one, as the company claims. Because Java supports only certain fonts, there is a good chance that font substitution will affect your document's design. If you need something more exact, there's Adobe Acrobat, which includes fonts within the file, but also requires a browser plug-in and a little Web server expertise. **JIM BURTON**

FILEBOX

Net-It Central



Verdict: A creative way to publish Java-based documents that anyone can read.

Pros: Easy to use for this class of product; no plug-ins needed.

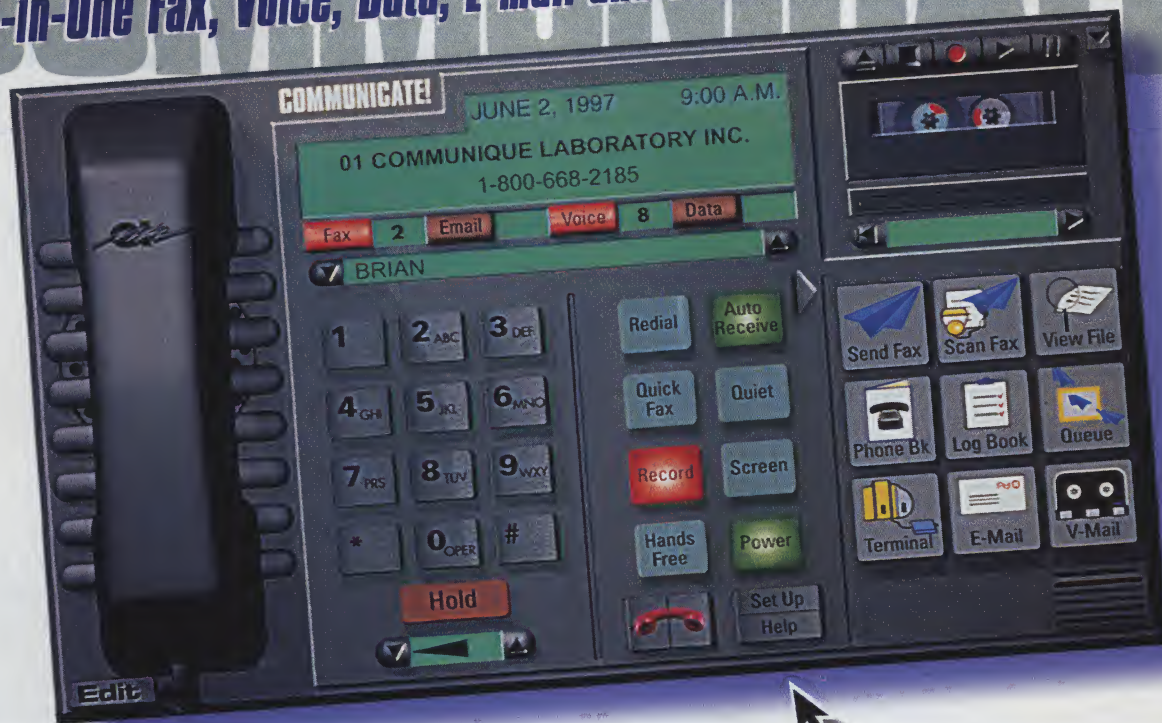
Cons: Document conversion and display are close, but not exact; for conversion, requires the software used to create the document.

\$1,995 for Starter Edition (limited to 100 documents); \$4,995 for Standard Edition; \$6,995 for Professional Edition (includes API to integrate with custom apps), est. street prices
Net-It Software Corp.
(888) 638-4866, (415) 551-0600
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Guide to the Ratings: ★★★★★ Excellent ★★★★★ Good ★★★★★ Acceptable ★★ Poor ★ Unacceptable

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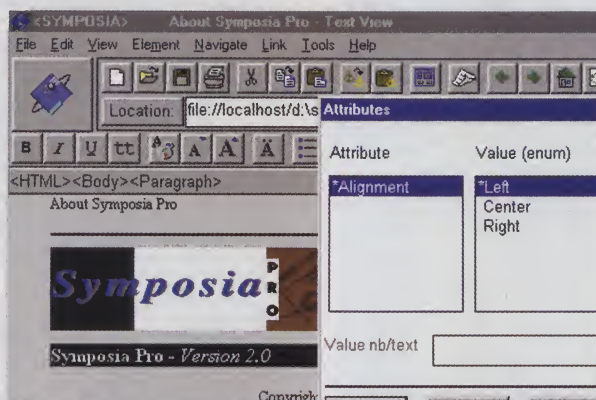
COMPUTER CITY

Infolink 380 at: www.pccomputing.com/infolink

Quick and Dirty HTML

Building a simple Web page doesn't have to mean taking a crash course in HTML. Grif's \$99 Symposia Pro 2.0 is targeted at business users who want to get Web pages up in a hurry with minimum fuss or effort.

At first glance, there isn't much to Symposia Pro. Its spartan interface lacks the powerful features of its competitors. On the upside, however, the program's simplicity won't scare away beginners just looking for a bare-bones HTML editor. Its visual interface lets you point to any page element and edit the related HTML tag in a status line at the top of the screen. One caveat: While easy to use, Symposia Pro's manual is woefully lacking in examples.



Back to Basics: Grif's \$99 Symposia Pro 2.0 offers basic HTML editing, but little site management.

High points of the program include an integrated and easy-to-use Hot Spot editor, which lets you define hot spots for graphics with little effort and on the same page as the rest of

your layout. Another handy feature lets you retrieve, update, and save your HTML files without using FTP.

Experienced Web page creators will find that Symposia

FILEBOX

Symposia Pro 2.0



Verdict: An easy but uninspired HTML editor.

Pros: Easy image mapping.

Cons: Limited features for site management and editing.

System Requirements:

386 CPU, Windows 3.x, 95, or NT; 16MB of RAM, 6MB of hard disk space.

\$99 est. street price

Grif

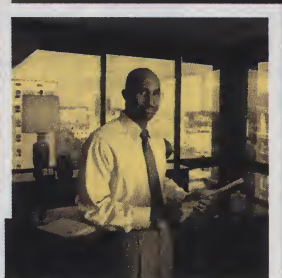
www.grif.com

Enter 648 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

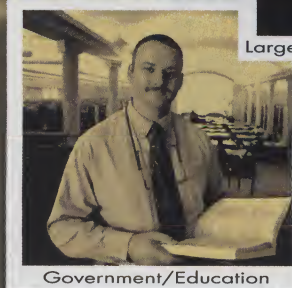
Pro feels and works a lot like HTML editors circa 1996. For most users, there are better products out there, such as SoftQuad's \$129 HotMetal Pro 4.0. **DAVE GERDING**



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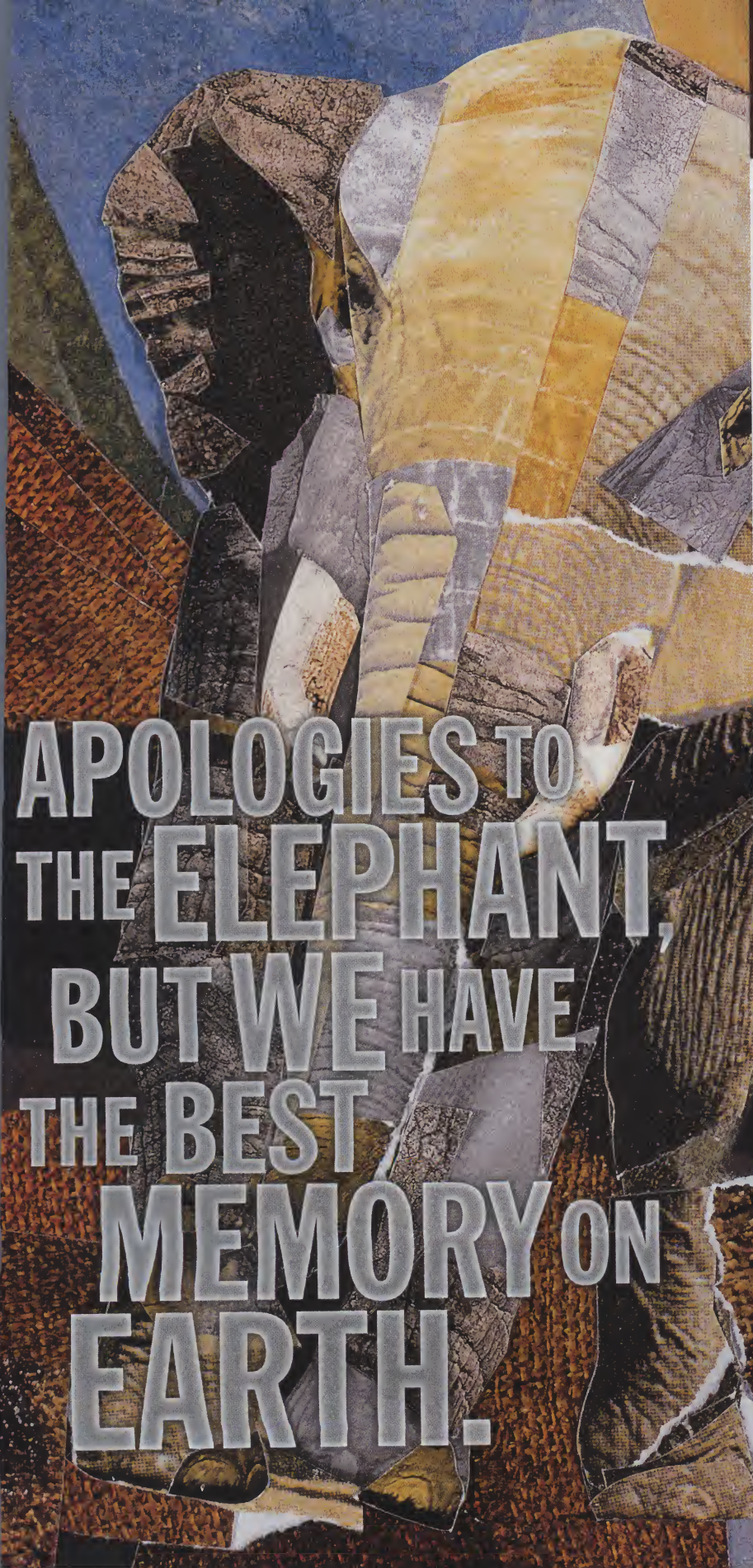
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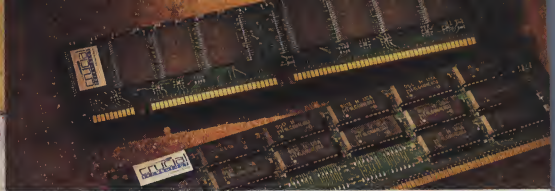
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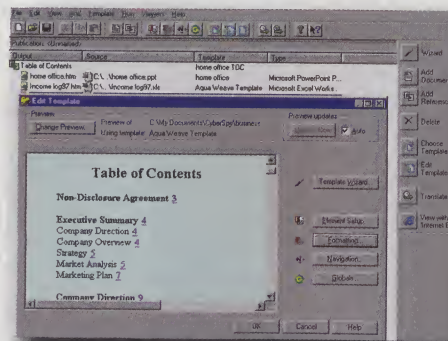
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Easy Office HTML Converter

The next time you need to convert a large batch of documents to HTML, don't spend a fortune hiring a pro to do it. InfoAccess's HTML Transit 3.0 works with most Microsoft Office applications to quickly convert batches of documents into attractive Web pages.

HTML Transit 3.0 includes a number of tools for building Web sites from Office documents. As in previous versions, HTML Transit divides documents at major headings so you don't end up with mile-long pages of text. HTML Transit also performs tricks with graphics in files, such as turning large images into clickable thumbnails that reference the actual graphic on a different page. You can include different



kinds of Office documents in the same Web site, and HTML Transit automatically combines their tables of contents into a single page.

HTML Transit generates the Web page's HTML formatting based on the style sheet elements in your document. Or if you format your document manually, HTML

Presto, Chango: HTML Transit 3.0 converts almost any Microsoft Office document into an attractive Web page in seconds.

Transit provides best guesses based on the way you structured your text. You can modify every aspect of the page, including navigation tools, background graphics, and tables. You can even create a Web page with frames and a table of contents appearing at the side of the page.

While easy to learn, this ver-

FILEBOX

HTML Transit 3.0



Verdict: Turn Microsoft Office documents into HTML with minimal effort.

Pros: Update formatted Web pages with one click; converts multiple documents in batches.

Cons: Cumbersome interface buries some of the program's best features.

\$495 est. street price
InfoAccess
(800) 344-9737
Enter 650 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

sion is hindered by a cumbersome interface. Once you master the basics, however, HTML Transit 3.0 is a great tool for managing lots of documents. **DAVE JOHNSON**

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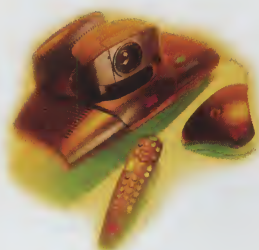
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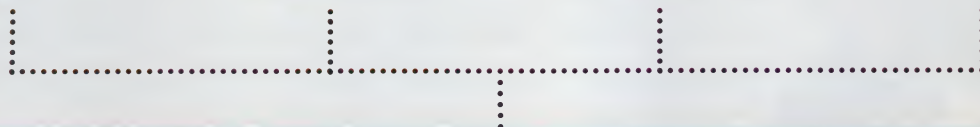
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Infolink 209 at: www.pccomputing.com/infolink

The **Lost** CDs

BY RON WHITE

It happens only once a year. Fortified with scads of trash bags, a broom, and industrial-strength solvents, I clean up my office. Usually this means uncovering lost CDs. Some are better off in obscurity. Others I didn't have time to test and were set aside where I wouldn't forget them until I had more time. Still others migrated on their own beneath stacks of press releases, unopened mail, and memos from the network manager complaining about excessively large and tasteless e-mail. These are the Lost CD-ROMs, the legendary discs that, if I'd got around to looking at them, might have revolutionized society. Or not. In any case, here's a motley set of CDs finally getting some attention, if not respect.



CHRONICLE OF THE 20TH CENTURY ○○○○○

I figured I'd better look at DK Multimedia's Chronicle of the 20th Century while there still is a 20th century to be chronicled. Even for someone who considers history a particularly fiendish form of torture reserved for college students, I found this disc fascinating—more entertaining than most TV shows, but not as much fun as, say, eating an entire pie. It has a terrific search engine that lets you find any term in a fast, hyperlinked, multimedia-enhanced chronology. For every day of the century, there's at least one news

brief about what was happening. (On my birth date, for example, people discovered they could make fire by turning on something called burners found in many kitchens.) Or you can simply meander willy-nilly through interactive newspaper pages that cover everything of even passing significance in this century, even the deaths of people you've never heard of. There are special tours of the biggie events—world wars, space conquest, Vietnam, the Russian Revolution, and the Charleston. If my history classes had been this entertaining, I might actually have attended them.

Chronicle of the 20th Century / DK Multimedia / (888) 342-5357, (212) 213-4800 / \$40 est. street price / Enter 663 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink



REEL WOMEN ○○○

Oh, now I recall what happened with this one. I was all set to review Enteractive's Reel Women when it came out last year, but when I installed it, my hard disk crashed. Of course, I'm sure one thing had nothing to do with the other. So when I came across this CD locked inside a lead box covered by strands of garlic and a crucifix, I decided to back up my hard drive and try it again. Reel Women: The Untold Story is based on the book by Ally Acker, and it shows. It's wordy and tomelike in its use of still photos. It also needs far more clips from the films it discusses and fewer comments that use *iconographic* and *dichotomy* in

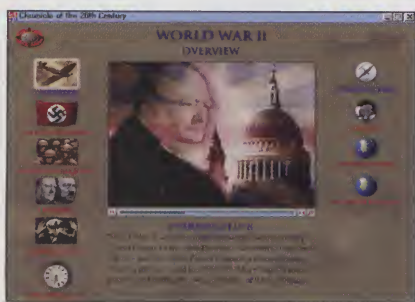
the same sentence. The cheesy women-in-Hollywood trivia game is embarrassing. For all its stodginess, Reel Women passes the why-isn't-this-a-special-on-A&E test by having a simple index to look up profiles of women in and behind movies. At first I thought Reel Women: The Untold Story was pushing it a bit, but I have to admit that I learned a lot—though it is sadly lacking in information about women's prison movies.

Reel Women: The Untold Story / Enteractive / (800) 433-4464, (860) 236-8600 / \$20 est. street price / Enter 664 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink



STAY TOONED ○○○

So, there I was last Saturday, barely awake and watching cartoons, when suddenly my TV set exploded, toon characters escaped all over the place, and my apartment building turned into one gigantic cartoon. That ever happen to you? It can with Sierra On-Line's Stay Tooned, a game oscillating somewhere between a children's game and an adult satire that I found beneath a pile of toys I've been stockpiling just in case I ever have grandkids. The premise is that you have to search the entire building to find a remote control that can return the toons to the TV. Yeah, just what you want on a hung-over Saturday morning, especially since Stay Tooned plays the same idiotic, endless musical loop, one so inane that a U.N. treaty has banned its use against prisoners of war. The stuff



Modern Times: Study the significant events of our time in Chronicle of the 20th Century.

Ratings: ○○○○○ Hidden gold. ○○○○ Discovered delight. ○○○ Unearthed oversight. ○○ Not worth dusting off. ○ Trash trophy.

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-The Art of War, Sun Tzu



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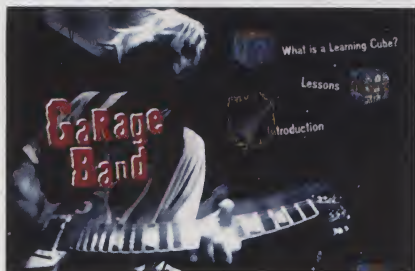
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adults will like—satires of *Seinfeld* (“Whinefeld”) and the shopping channel—don’t last long. Best advice: Turn this one over to the kids, turn down the volume on the PC, and take two aspirin.

Stay Tooned / Sierra On-Line / (800) 757-7707, (425) 649-9800 / \$40 est. street price / Enter 665 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink



Jukebox Heroes: Guide your band to the top of the charts in Garage Band.



GARAGE BAND ○○○○○

I found this one under a stack of Bee Gees music CDs. Suddenly it all came back to me—I wasn’t meant to become a computer columnist! I want to be a rock ’n’ roll star. And if I’d had L3 Interactive’s Garage Band back before I was lured by the romance, adventure, and megabucks of computer journalism, I might have realized my dream. First you have to get used to the CD’s Learning Cube interface—a design that gives a PC all the ease of differential calculus, only with sound effects. But once you master the navigation, there’s some entertaining and hard information that any pimply-faced 16-year-old with an electric guitar in his or her hands will prize. The CD follows four would-be rock bands—Third Grade Teacher, the Mutts, Hairball, and Pink Floyd the Barber—as they embark on the blood, sweat, and tears road to rockdom (or at least get paid for a gig at some friend’s party). The bands’ experiences are mixed with video interviews with sound engineers, managers, bookers, and agents who dispense the practical information your teenagers need if they’re ever going to leave the garage and let you sleep at night. Even if they don’t make it big—or even make it small—rock ’n’ roll dreamers will love identifying with the bands’ adventures.

Garage Band / L3 Interactive / (800) 644-2823, (310) 264-4188 / \$30 est. street price / Enter 666 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink



STAR TREK ENCYCLOPEDIA ○○○○○

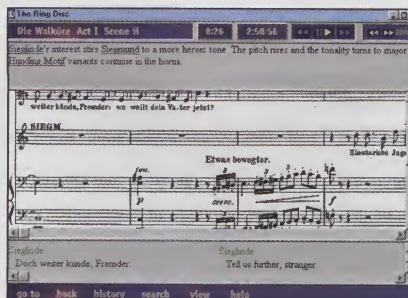
I’ve avoided *Star Trek* reviews because every time I do one I get angry letters from readers accusing me of prejudice toward fictional nonhuman species. The letter usually ends in something written in all-caps Klingon and I get the feeling I don’t want to know what it says. But for the consummate *Star Trek* fan (by the way, don’t call them Trekkies unless you keep a bomb sniffer next to your mailbox), this updated encyclopedia is a wondrous CD collection. Filled with videos, photos, mechanical schematics, and more details about all the *Star Trek* series and movies than special prosecutors have dug up about the Clinton administration, the four CDs provide hours of pointless amusement. Only one question: Encarta, Compton’s, and other CD encyclopedias manage to cover the entire real universe in one or two discs. Why does it take four CDs to cover a fictional universe?

Star Trek Encyclopedia / Simon & Schuster Interactive / (800) 983-5333, (212) 698-7000 / \$50 est. street price / Enter 667 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink



THE RING DISC ○○○○○

My knowledge of opera starts and ends with *Tommy* so I tried to avoid reviewing this one. But what the hell. A little culture can’t hurt—as long as it’s not growing in a petri dish. And The Ring Disc is helpful for the newcomer to the art of fat people singing on stage. I learned that Wagner’s *The Ring of the Nibelungen* is actually four operas starring these two characters named Siegfried and Roy, climaxing in the best known of the operas, *Die Götterdämmerung*¹, which features the famous *Ride of the*



Nice Ring: The Ring Disc gives you an enjoyable crash course in Wagner’s Ring Cycle.

*Valkyries*². The CD provides a rolling commentary on the music and various motifs strung through it along with a translation for those who are rusty in their classical German. The disc isn’t as slick as some of Microsoft’s early classical music CD-ROMs, but because Microsoft seems to have abandoned teaching about classical music by having you listen to it, I’m glad Media Cafe has taken up the slack—in this case an ambitious amount of slack.

¹ GER., LITERALLY, “THE ONE DAMNED BY GOD.”

² GER., LITERALLY, “KILL THE WABBIT!”

The Ring Disc: An Interactive Guide to Wagner’s Ring Cycle / The Media Cafe Publishing / (888) 746-4347, (217) 239-9410 / \$100 est. street price / Enter 668 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink



The Spoof Is Out There: *The X-Files* is ripe for parody, and *The X Fools* is an admirable attempt.



THE X FOOLS ○○○

They’re Special Agents Mully and Scudder—or rather, former special agents. The two ex-FBI agents are trying to prove that the TV show *The X-Files* is a tool to manipulate the public in preparation for takeover by superior beings from outer space. The CD parody is a mixed bag: an uncannily accurate David Duchovny voice impersonation; lame retreads of Pac Man and other early video games (which I played anyway); some ingenious sight gags; predictable jokes (“That’s not my flashlight, Scud-der”); and some satires of other TV shows that are like *Mad* magazine at its most obvious. It’s all such good fun and *The X-Files* is so overripe for a spoof that I’d forgive all the cheap shots if the damn thing weren’t so awkward to use. I mean, being forced to listen to the same jokes with no way to skip over them is insidious, like they’re trying to control my mind; it’s... it’s....

The X Fools / Palladium Interactive / (800) 910-2696, (415) 446-1700 / \$20 est. street price / Enter 669 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

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References and Additional Information

1. Hundreds of thousands of satisfied Quantex customers
2. Quantex Business Consultants at (800) 787-8686
3. The Quantex web site at www.quantex.com

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Windows Magazine, 8/97

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(with MMX™ Technology)

Lease: \$53/Mo.

- 233MHz Pentium® Processor with MMX™ Technology
- 32MB EDO Memory / 512KB Pipelined Burst Cache
- 4.3GB Ultra ATA HD / 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Drive
- STB Nitro 3D w/4MB SGRAM
- 17" Digital Monitor (15.8" viewable)
- K56flex protocol Fax/Modem* w/Voice Mail and Speakerphone
- 32X Max EIDE CD-ROM Drive
- Ensoniq 32-Bit Wavetable Sound Card
- Altec-Lansing ACS-90 Speakers
- Quantex Mid Tower Case
- 104-Key Keyboard with MS Mouse
- MS Windows '95 with MS Plus!
- Value Multimedia Software Bundle
- 3-year limited warranty with 1-year On-Site Service**

QP6/233 M-2X (with Pentium II processor) . . \$1649

QP6/266 M-2X (with Pentium II processor) . . \$1749

QP6/300 M-2X (with Pentium II processor) . . \$1899

QP6/266 M-3x **\$1899**

(featuring Pentium® II processor)

Lease: 67/Mo.

- 266MHz Pentium® II Processor
- 64MB SDRAM Memory / 512KB Secondary Cache
- 6.4GB Ultra ATA HD / 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Drive
- 64-bit 3D AGP Graphics Card with 4MB SGRAM
- 17" Digital Monitor (15.8" viewable)
- K56flex protocol Fax/Modem* w/Voice Mail and Speakerphone
- 32X Max EIDE CD-ROM Drive
- Ensoniq 32-Bit Wavetable Sound Card
- Altec-Lansing ACS-90 Speakers
- Quantex ATX Mid Tower Case
- 104-Key Keyboard with MS Mouse
- MS Windows '95 with MS Plus!
- Value Multimedia Software Bundle
- 3-year limited warranty with 1-year On-Site Service**

QP6/233 M-3X (with Pentium II processor) . . \$1799

QP6/300 M-3X (with Pentium II processor) . . \$2049

QP6/333 M-3X (with Pentium II processor) . . \$2199

QP6/333 M-4x **\$2499**

(featuring Pentium® II processor)

Lease: 88/Mo.

- 333MHz Pentium® II Processor
- 64MB SDRAM Memory / 512KB Secondary Cache
- 6.4GB Ultra ATA HD / 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Drive
- 3D Labs Permedia 2 AGP Graphics Card with 8MB
- 19" Digital Monitor (18.1" viewable)
- K56flex protocol Fax/Modem* w/Voice Mail and Speakerphone
- 32X Max EIDE CD-ROM Drive
- Ensoniq 32-Bit Wavetable Sound Card
- Altec-Lansing ACS-45 Speakers with subwoofer
- Quantex ATX Mid Tower Case
- 104-Key Keyboard with MS Mouse
- MS Windows '95 with MS Plus!
- Value Multimedia Software Bundle
- 3-year limited warranty with 1-year On-Site Service**

QP6/233 M-4X (with Pentium II processor) . . \$2099

QP6/266 M-4X (with Pentium II processor) . . \$2199

QP6/300 M-4X (with Pentium II processor) . . \$2349

Power Multimedia Series

Software: MS Office '97 Small Business Edition • MS Money '97 • Office Mate • Day Planner Pro • Power Business Plans • Form Designer Pro
• Project Manager Pro • Labels Unlimited • Compton's Reference Collection • Dr. Solomons Anti-Virus • MS Internet Explorer 4.0

QP5/233 SM-1 **\$1399**

(with MMX™ Technology)

Lease: \$49/Mo.

- 233MHz Pentium® Processor with MMX™ Technology
- 32MB EDO Memory / 512KB Pipelined Burst Cache
- 4.3GB Ultra ATA HD / 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Drive
- STB Nitro 3D w/4MB SGRAM
- 15" Digital Monitor (13.8" viewable)
- K56flex protocol Fax/Modem* w/Voice Mail and Speakerphone
- 32X Max EIDE CD-ROM Drive
- Ensoniq 32-Bit Wavetable Sound Card
- Altec-Lansing ACS-90 Speakers
- Quantex Mid Tower Case
- 104-Key Keyboard with MS IntelliMouse
- MS Windows '95 with MS Plus!
- Power Multimedia Software Bundle
- Microsoft Office '97 Small Business Edition
- 3-year limited warranty with 1-year On-Site Service**

QP5/200 SM-1 (with MMX™ Technology) . . \$1349

QP6/233 SM-1X (with Pentium II processor) . . \$1549

QP6/266 SM-1X (with Pentium II processor) . . \$1649

QP6/266 SM-2x **\$1899**

(featuring Pentium® II processor)

Lease: \$67/Mo.

- 266MHz Pentium® II Processor
- 32MB SDRAM Memory / 512KB Secondary Cache
- 4.3GB Ultra ATA HD / 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Drive
- 128-bit Riva 128 3D AGP Graphics Card with 4MB SGRAM
- 17" Digital Monitor (15.8" viewable)
- K56flex protocol Fax/Modem* w/Voice Mail and Speakerphone
- 32X Max EIDE CD-ROM Drive
- Ensoniq 32-Bit Wavetable Sound Card
- Altec-Lansing ACS-45 Speakers with subwoofer
- Quantex ATX Mid Tower Case
- 104-Key Keyboard with MS IntelliMouse
- MS Windows '95 with MS Plus!
- Power Multimedia Software Bundle
- Microsoft Office '97 Small Business Edition
- 3-year limited warranty with 1-year On-Site Service**

QP6/233 SM-2X (with Pentium II processor) . . \$1799

QP6/300 SM-2X (with Pentium II processor) . . \$2049

QP6/333 SM-2X (with Pentium II processor) . . \$2199

QP6/300 SM-3x **\$2149**

(featuring Pentium® II processor)

Lease: \$75/Mo.

- 300MHz Pentium® II Processor
- 64MB SDRAM Memory / 512KB Secondary Cache
- 6.4GB Ultra ATA HD / 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Drive
- 128-bit Riva 128 3D AGP Graphics Card with 4MB SGRAM
- 17" Digital Monitor (15.8" viewable)
- K56flex protocol Fax/Modem* w/Voice Mail and Speakerphone
- 32X Max EIDE CD-ROM Drive
- Ensoniq 32-Bit Wavetable Sound Card
- Altec-Lansing ACS-90 Speakers
- Quantex ATX Mid Tower Case
- 104-Key Keyboard with MS IntelliMouse
- MS Windows '95 with MS Plus!
- Power Multimedia Software Bundle
- Microsoft Office '97 Small Business Edition
- 3-year limited warranty with 1-year On-Site Service**

QP6/233 SM-3X (with Pentium II processor) . . \$1899

QP6/266 SM-3X (with Pentium II processor) . . \$1999

QP6/333 SM-3X (with Pentium II processor) . . \$2299

QP6/333 SM-4x **\$2649**

(featuring Pentium® II processor)

Lease: \$93/Mo.

- 333MHz Pentium® II Processor
- 64MB SDRAM Memory / 512KB Secondary Cache
- 6.4GB Ultra ATA HD / 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Drive
- 3D Labs Permedia 2 AGP Graphics Card with 8MB
- 19" Digital Monitor (18.1" viewable)
- K56flex protocol Fax/Modem* w/Voice Mail and Speakerphone
- 32X Max EIDE CD-ROM Drive
- Ensoniq 32-Bit Wavetable Sound Card
- Altec-Lansing ACS-90 Speakers with ACS-250 subwoofer
- Quantex ATX Mid Tower Case
- 104-Key Keyboard with MS IntelliMouse
- MS Windows '95 with MS Plus!
- Power Multimedia Software Bundle
- Microsoft Office '97 Small Business Edition
- 3-year limited warranty with 1-year On-Site Service**

QP6/233 SM-4X (with Pentium II processor) . . \$2249

QP6/266 SM-4X (with Pentium II processor) . . \$2349

QP6/300 SM-4X (with Pentium II processor) . . \$2499

Best Buy Specials

M-Series Best Buy **\$1999**

(featuring Pentium® II processor)

Lease: \$70/Mo.

- 300MHz Pentium® II Processor
- 2 Universal Serial Bus (USB) Ports/ Intel 440LX PCI Chipset
- 64MB SDRAM Memory / 512KB Secondary Cache
- 5.1GB Ultra ATA HD / 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Drive
- 64-bit 3D AGP Graphics Card w/4MB SGRAM
- 17" Digital Monitor (15.8" viewable)
- K56flex protocol Fax/Modem* w/Voice Mail and Speakerphone
- 32X Max EIDE CD-ROM Drive
- Ensoniq 32-Bit Wavetable Sound Card
- Altec-Lansing ACS-90 Speakers
- Quantex ATX Mid Tower Case
- MS Natural Keyboard Elite with MS Mouse
- MS Windows '95 with MS Plus!
- Value Multimedia Software Bundle
- 3-year limited warranty with 1-year On-Site Service**

SM-Series Best Buy **\$2499**

(featuring Pentium® II processor)

Lease: \$88/Mo.

- 300MHz Pentium® II Processor
- 2 Universal Serial Bus (USB) Ports/ Intel 440LX PCI Chipset
- 64MB SDRAM Memory / 512KB Secondary Cache
- 6.4GB Ultra ATA HD / 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Drive
- 128-bit Riva 128 3D AGP Graphics Card with 4MB SGRAM
- 19" Digital Monitor (18.1" viewable)
- K56flex protocol Fax/Modem* w/Voice Mail and Speakerphone
- Toshiba 2nd-Generation DVD-ROM Drive w/Decoder Board
- Ensoniq 32-Bit Wavetable Sound Card
- Altec-Lansing ACS-45 Speakers with subwoofer
- Quantex ATX Mid Tower Case
- MS Natural Keyboard Elite MS IntelliMouse
- MS Windows '95 with MS Plus!
- Power Multimedia Software Bundle
- Microsoft Office '97 Small Business Edition
- 3-year limited warranty with 1-year On-Site Service**

UPGRADES (available with system purchase)

- Panasonic PD/CD-Rom Drive w/ one 650MB PD cartridge \$ 249
- Three(3) Panasonic PD Cartridges \$ 99
- Zip 100MB Internal Drive w/ one cartridge \$ 89
- Microsoft Natural Keyboard Elite (upgrade from 104-Key Keyboard) \$ 39
- HP Deskjet 692C Printer (w/photo color kit) \$ 299
- HP Laserjet 6L Laser Printer \$ 379
- Microsoft® Sidewinder™ 3D Joystick \$ 59

(all upgrades covered by manufacturer's warranty)



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Quantex H-1331 \$3599

Lease: \$117/Mo.

- 266MHz Pentium® Processor with MMX™ Technology
- Intel Mobile Module (I.M.M.) Architecture
- 13.3" XGA Active Matrix Display
- 64MB SDRAM (expandable to 144MB)
- 512KB Pipelined Burst Cache
- 4GB HD / 3.5" 1.44MB Modular Floppy Drive
- PCMCIA K56flex™ protocol Fax/Modem
- 24X Max Modular CD-ROM Drive
- PCI Bus with 128-bit graphics accelerator
- Integrated 16-bit Stereo Sound and Speakers
- Smart Lithium Ion Battery
- 2nd Lithium Ion Battery
- Mini-Docking Station
- USB and Fast IR Ports
- Integrated Personal Touchpad
- Windows NT Workstation 4.0 or MS Windows '95
- MS Office '97 Small Business Edition
- Carrying Case
- 24-hr./7-day Technical Support
- 3-year limited warranty on CPU and Main Memory
- 1-year parts and labor limited warranty on all other components

The one notebook powerful enough
to let you work in two places

Quantex Notebooks. With the awesome desktop power, reliability, and network capabilities that let you conduct business no matter where you are.

In today's business world the best thing is to have one PC that does everything. Whether in the office or at home. With a Quantex notebook you get all the desktop power, speed, and functionality needed to complete any task. It also allows easy access to the Network, via LAN or WAN, in or out of the office. The Quantex H-1331 notebook comes bundled with the perfect business package, including Microsoft's Office '97 Small Business Edition and Windows NT Workstation. Our notebooks not only meet your bottom line, they're backed by award-winning support. Support so superior, 91% of the people interviewed in a *Windows Magazine* survey said they would buy another Quantex PC. That's something for you to think about when you're considering your next notebook purchase.



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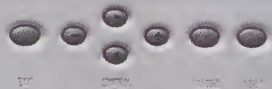
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NEC

MultiSync A700





A You demand incredible image clarity and vivid color at an affordable price.

A You're obsessed with buying a legendary brand, known for reliability and innovation.

A You've been overheard saying, "Then unbundle it."

Are you a type **A** personality?

A You're impatient with how long it's taking us to tell you the horizontal dot pitch (it's 0.24mm!).

A You're reading this while showering.

MultiSync® A Series monitors from NEC Technologies are an exceptional value for home or office.

Looks like you're a prime candidate for our budget-friendly MultiSync® A Series monitors. Both meet your personal standards for high-resolution, flicker-free images, digital OSM™ on-screen controls, and the security of a three-year limited warranty. Both are also PC and Macintosh® compatible, Plug and Play compatible and Energy Star compliant. There's more to tell, but you probably have to be somewhere.

	MultiSync A500™	MultiSync A700™
CRT/VIS*	15"/13.8"	17"/15.6"
Max. Res.	1280 x 1024 @ 60 Hz	1280 x 1024 @ 65 Hz
Dot Pitch	0.24mm horizontal	0.24mm horizontal

To learn more about the entire line of MultiSync monitors from NEC Technologies, call 1-800-NEC-INFO or visit www.nec.com.
Expect more. Experience more.

MultiSync is a registered trademark and A500, A700, "Expect more. Experience more." OSM, and the NEC Technologies icon are trademarks of NEC Technologies, Inc. All other trademarks or registered trademarks are the property of their respective holders. *VIS stands for Viewable Image Size. ©1997 NEC Technologies, Inc.

Infolink 236 at: www.pccomputing.com/infolink

The best of everything:
the perfect PC for
any size budget

Windows 98 Dream Systems

By Marty Jerome

The wait is almost over. Windows 98 is on its way. Finally, you're about to get your hands on a faster, more stable operating system. No doubt you're ready for it, but what about your system?

Lightning-fast graphics courtesy of advanced graphics port (AGP). Hassle-free hardware setup with USB. Smarter power management thanks to Advanced Configuration and Power Interface (ACPI). These are just

some of the improvements you can expect from Win98—that is, if you have a PC that supports these hardware breakthroughs.

Putting together a desktop or notebook PC that makes the most of Win98 doesn't have to be as expensive or as complicated as you might think. We've got six Win98 setups that fit a range of budgets. Starting at \$1,699, these systems pack the latest technologies and give you plenty of room to grow.

We help you pick out the right box, but we don't stop there. Our guide shows you the best additions—printers, scanners, digital cameras, and other goodies—for your home or office. Even if you don't need the whole package just yet, use this roundup as a road map for upgrading your PC later. Every system, hard drive, display, removable storage device, and peripheral tops the list for performance and usability.

So now what are you waiting for?



You say money's no object? Here's a dual-processor system to make Windows 98 scream.

PAGE 176



Take the middle road, but don't compromise. This 300MHz system is in for the long haul.

PAGE 178



Keep accounting happy and get the setup you need with this 233MHz Pentium II workhorse.

PAGE 180



Travel light, but pack the best. This USB-ready portable has enough oomph to replace your PC.

PAGE 185



The only companion you need for business travel. Tote this roadworthy notebook everywhere you go.

PAGE 187



This affordable mobile system delivers the most bang for your buck. Plus: inexpensive extras.

PAGE 189

Deluxe Desktop System

Money isn't everything, but enough of it can mean the difference between yesterday's hunk of metal and silicon and the ultimate in high-performance desktop systems. But hold on. Just because your budget knows no bounds doesn't mean you should throw big bucks at any old Pentium II. Whether you use your

machine for CAD, multimedia authoring, page layout, or photo editing, every component deserves critical scrutiny. Configuring the ultimate PC is as much art—and fun—as it is science. And it doesn't come cheap. If you absolutely must have the finest system money can buy, we've got your machine.

Room for a View: Leave the CRT monitors to the poor schmucks stuck in Cubicle Land and equip your system with NEC's 20-inch MultiSync LCD2000 flat-panel display. Your eyes will thank you.

MultiSync LCD2000 / NEC Technologies / (800) 632-4636 / \$7,999 est. street price / Enter 783 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

PII Times Two: Hewlett-Packard's blazing-fast Kayak XU packs a pair of 300MHz Pentium II CPUs and 128MB of RAM. Can your apps keep up?

Kayak XU / Hewlett-Packard / (800) 752-0900 / \$7,712 est. street price

Home Movies: Simulate the silver screen: Add the Creative Labs PC-DVD Encore Dxr2.

PC-DVD Encore Dxr2 / Creative Labs / (800) 998-5227 / \$379 est. street price / Enter 784 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

Stash It: Plant all your files on Seagate's superspeedy Barracuda 18 SCSI hard drive. With 18GB of space, it's nearly a bottomless pit.

Barracuda 18 / Seagate Technology / (800) 732-4283 / \$1,700 est. street price / *Enter 785 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink*

Surround Sound: Wrap yourself in a blanket of digital sound. Attach Altec Lansing's ADA310 PowerCube USB speakers with subwoofer and Dolby Surround Sound.

ADA310 PowerCube / Altec Lansing / (800) 258-3288 / \$299 est. street price / *Enter 786 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink*

Third Dimension: Number Nine's Revolution 3D (stocked with 8MB of memory) keeps your graphics jumping.

Revolution 3D / Number Nine Visual Technology / (800) 438-6463 / \$299 est. street price / *Enter 787 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink*

Power Up: A power surge or outage could turn the mightiest of systems into an expensive doorstop. Protect your PC with the APC Smart-UPS 700.

APC Smart-UPS 700 / American Power Conversion Corp. / (800) 877-4080 / \$499 list price / *Enter 788 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink*

Now Hear This: Get the Sound Blaster AWE64 Gold card for big sound.

Sound Blaster AWE64 Gold / Creative Labs / (800) 998-5227 / \$199 est. street price / *Enter 789 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink*

PRINTER



Living Color: Lexmark's Optra SC 1275n laser printer renders stunning colors at breathtaking speeds. Setup is a breeze. Changing cartridges couldn't be easier. And usability is tops.

Optra SC 1275n / Lexmark Int'l / (800) 539-6275 / \$4,450 est. street price / *Enter 790 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink*

SATELLITE DISH



Wireless Web: Hughes's DirecDuo satellite dish and receiver deliver fast and clear TV and Internet connections. How does eight times the speed of analog downloads sound?

DirecDuo / Hughes Network Systems / (800) 347-3272 / \$699 est. street price / *Enter 791 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink*

CAMERA



Roaming Eye: Don't limit yourself to still images. Canon's Optura digital video camera lets you record impressive full-motion video—just don't forget to add the FireWire adapter.

Optura / Canon USA / (800) 652-2666 / \$2,699 est. street price (\$799 more for a FireWire capture kit) / *Enter 792 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink*

Midrange Desktop System

Budgets be damned? Few of us can be so cavalier. But even when the bean counters are watching your every move, you don't have to settle for a second-rate machine. Midrange PCs are the tireless foot soldiers in business computing. They're also the sweet spot where performance is still high but prices fall. And

when shrewdly configured, they stand up to boxes that cost twice as much. Still skeptical? A sensational midrange system can be had for less than half the price of a dual-processor network box. For big spreadsheets, resource-hungry multimedia apps, and desktop publishing, this system has your name on it.

Overdrive: Put Plextor's UltraPlex 14/32-speed CD-ROM drive on your shortlist. It may be the last CD-ROM drive you ever buy once DVD takes off.

UltraPlex / Plextor / (800) 475-3986 / \$289 est. street price / Enter 794 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

Wide Angle: Swap your 17-inch for a Sony GDM-500PS 21-inch Trinitron CRT. Sony's technology ensures precise focus, even in the corners of the display.

GDM-500PS / Sony Electronics / (800) 352-7669 / \$1,799 est. street price / Enter 795 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

Pocket File: Add SyQuest's SyJet, a fast, easy way to back up your files. Each cartridge holds 1GB and fits into your pocket.

SyJet / SyQuest Technology / (800) 245-2278 / \$299 est. street price / Enter 793 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

Hot Box: NEC's top-drawer Direction SPL 300 churns Windows NT code as if it were buttermilk. Powered by a 300MHz Pentium II CPU, it comes with 64MB of memory.

Direction SPL 300 / NEC Computer Systems Division / (888) 863-2669 / \$2,049 est. street price / Enter 796 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

Faster Graphics: With all the NEC Direction's processing power, you'll want ATI's All-in-Wonder Pro graphics accelerator to keep images up to speed.

All-in-Wonder Pro / ATI Technologies / (905) 882-2600 / \$299 est. street price / InfoLink No. 797

PRINTER



Private Press: With Hewlett-Packard's DeskJet 1600CM, your proposals and presentations come alive with color. It delivers razor-sharp resolution, and it's faster than your old laser.

DeskJet 1600CM / Hewlett-Packard / (800) 752-0900 / \$1,999 est. street price

SCANNER



Easy-Pass Color: Still think color scanners are toys? The Agfa StudioStar's superb image quality, speed, and easy setup will make you think twice. Plus it comes with top-notch software.

StudioStar / Agfa, a Division of Bayer Corp. / (800) 227-2780 / \$749 est. street price / Enter 800 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

CAMERA



Say Cheese: The sleek Kodak DC210 zoom camera resembles the 35mm point-and-shoot you pack on your vacations. You'll like its crisp resolution and versatile file formats.

Kodak Digital Science DC210 zoom camera / Eastman Kodak / (800) 235-6325 / \$899 est. street price / InfoLink No. 801

Play It Again: Surround-sound audio comes by way of Cambridge SoundWorks' MicroWorks speakers with subwoofer. Voices are perfectly balanced and the speakers don't strain—even at high volumes.

MicroWorks / Cambridge SoundWorks / (800) 367-4434 / \$350 est. street price / Enter 798 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

Elbow Room: Fast, abundant storage is a must for any business-class PC. Seagate's Medalist Pro 9140 hard drive offers both 9.1GB of capacity and bullet-train-fast access times.

Medalist Pro 9140 / Seagate Technology / (800) 732-4283 / \$495 est. street price / Enter 799 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

Value Desktop System

Whiz-bang features and peripherals have their place, but now let's talk about bang for the buck. When your department budget—or your wallet—is picking up the tab for a new system, priorities tend to get rearranged. This is especially true in the workaday world of spreadsheets, word processors, e-mail,

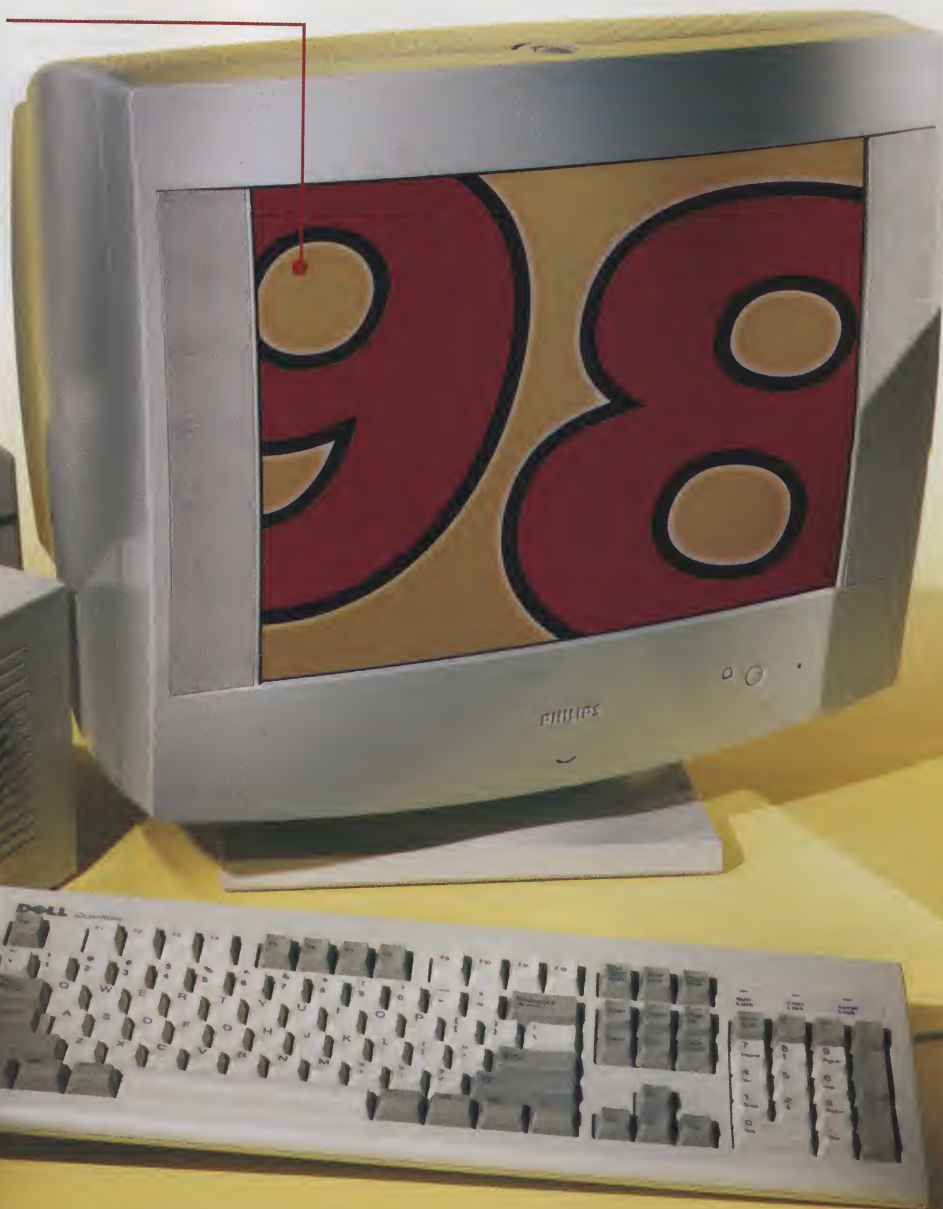
and the Web. An excellent low-cost PC handles these chores without a hitch. The math is simple: Get the most for the least. Thanks to the ongoing PC price wars, you get a lot more than you could six months ago. In fact, even the tightest budgets let you splurge here and there.

What You See: Save money by keeping the stock—and speedy—STB nVidia AGP graphics card (with 4MB of memory). But pony up for Philips's aptly named Brilliance 109 19-inch monitor, which is USB-ready.

Brilliance 109 / Philips Electronics / (800) 835-3506 / \$1,049 est. street price / Enter 802 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

Easy Listening: No need to upgrade when you start with the Dell's Yamaha wavetable sound. Keep the stock speakers and add on Labtec's Universal Subwoofer LCS-2408.

Universal Subwoofer LCS-2408 / Labtec / (360) 808-2100 / \$199 est. street price / Enter 803 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink



Tireless Gofer: Dell's Dimension XPS D233 can't say no. As performance goes, its 233MHz Pentium II wails. And with a thrifty 32MB of RAM, its price lets you dress the system up without sending your budget reeling.

Dimension XPS D233 / Dell Computer Corp. / (800) 388-8542 / \$1,699 est. street price / Enter 804 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

Drive Time: Dump the stock CD-ROM drive in favor of the Panasonic 12X Big 5 CD changer. You get five CD-ROM drives in one 12-speed drive. Choose EIDE, or boost the drive's speed even more with the SCSI-2 version.

12X Big 5 / Panasonic Computer Peripheral Company / (800) 742-8086 / \$279 for EIDE, \$389 for SCSI-2, est. street prices / Enter 805 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

Room to Spare: Hard drive options start at 4.3GB, but you can scale up to Seagate's 9.1GB Medalist Pro 9140. At 5.4 cents per megabyte, this drive defines affordability. For storage to go, consider an Iomega Zip drive.

Medalist Pro 9140 / Seagate Technology / (800) 732-4283 / \$495 est. street price / Enter 806 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

PRINTER



Put It in Writing: Who says you have to fork over \$800 for near-laser-quality color printing? The Epson Stylus Color 800 costs less than \$400, yet delivers 1,440-dpi resolution. You'll love its Spool Manager software too.

Stylus Color 800 / Epson America / (800) 463-7766 / \$399 est. street price

SCANNER



Scan for Pennies: It costs less than a round-trip coast-to-coast ticket, but Hewlett-Packard's flatbed ScanJet 5100Cse renders fast, 24-bit, photo-quality color images. And the whole process is one-button easy.

ScanJet 5100Cse / Hewlett-Packard / (800) 722-6538 / \$299 est. street price

CAMERA



Snap to It: So your bare-bones budget leaves a little money to spare. Quick—get an Olympus D-320L. It features a four-mode flash, a TV/VCR connector, and excellent software.

Olympus D-320L / Olympus America / (800) 347-4027 / \$699 est. street price / Enter 807 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

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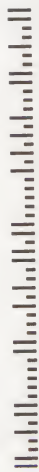
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TransPort VLX / Micron Electronics / (888) 634-8799 / \$2,249 est. street price / Enter 821 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

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MouseMan for Notebooks / Logitech / (800) 231-7717 / \$50 est. street price / Enter 822 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

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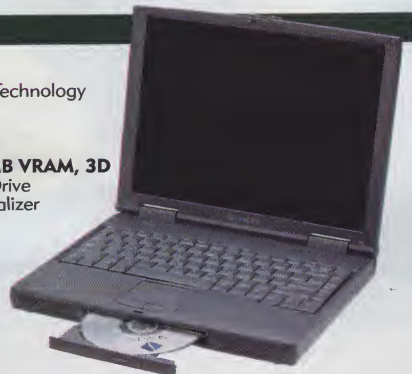
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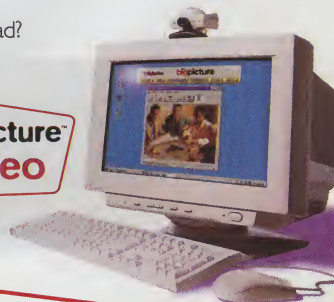
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ACTION!

Work has never been this much fun. Look at that slick training video you made from stacks of old tapes in the store room. With all those catchy special effects, who'd ever guess it's repurposed content? Then there are the few choice clips you rescued from the snoozy board meeting footage and popped into a video e-mail. That sure brought the chairman's message home. And your Web site isn't doing too badly either—hits are up 20 percent since you added some low-bandwidth video footage to entice more visitors.

The best part about it? You're also the office hero. That's because no one else realizes just how easy and affordable PC video capture has become. They still think it's best left to the experts—and that's fine by you.

With today's video-capture cards and external devices, you can get started for as little as \$65 or spend as much as \$1,000. It all depends on the job you've got in mind. If you're looking to jazz up your Web site or your PowerPoint presentations,

Secret weapons for business: low-cost capture cards make grabbing and editing digital video easy

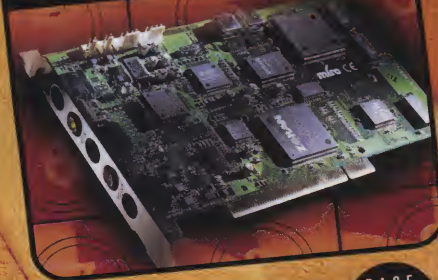
QUICK AND EASY CLIPS



Low-cost capture cards let you effortlessly jazz up your Web site or a presentation with video clips.

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STUDIO-QUALITY PRODUCTIONS



For more demanding jobs, these pro capture devices deliver higher quality video and let you create your own videotapes.

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BY DAVID GERDING

PHOTOGRAPHS BY MARK JOHANN

Step By Step: How to Capture

Capturing video is simply the process of converting an analog signal that carries audio and visual information into a digital file that can be played back and manipulated on your PC. Ideally, what you end up with on your system looks like the original video you started with. While the hardware you choose plays a big part, following these steps helps make capturing video painless.



- 1 — Check Your Source:** Before you begin your project, check your video source. Video that is shot with plenty of light on high-end equipment survives the rigors of digitizing better than poorly shot or low-quality video. If the original video is substandard, reshoot it if possible for better results.

- 2 — Prepare Your Hard Drive:** Digitizing video means pumping an enormous number of bits through your system to the hard drive. Thoroughly defragment your hard drive before you begin capturing video so you drop fewer frames. And always capture to the fastest drive on your PC.



- 3 — Set Up Hardware and Software:** Plug the video source into the capture device, then launch the editing software. Choose your capture settings; if you can make them the same resolution and format as your final video file, you avoid having to convert them.



you need fewer bells and whistles than if you plan to create your own video tapes. A device that supports low resolutions—160 by 120—is adequate (although you probably want the option to capture higher quality clips). We rounded up 12 products that fit the bill.

For bigger projects, you should use your PC as an editing and special-effects platform. This means the video you digitize and work with on your system is ultimately printed back to videotape. When this is the case, the video needs to be higher quality because it's shown on larger screens and at higher resolutions. You want a device that supports a minimum resolution of 320 by 240, while 640 by 480 or higher is preferred. To help you decide what's your best bet, we looked at 7 devices that are perfect for making tapes.

In and Out To capture video to your PC, you must plug in a source—a VCR, a television, a camcorder, a digital video camera, or even a TV tuner card inside your PC. Each of the 19 products we looked at includes both standard Composite (RCA) and S-Video inputs to feed the video signal to your computer. S-Video gives you the better quality because it provides a clearer signal.

Even so, video quality using either input varies among the products we reviewed. A big factor in determining quality is how well your video hardware handles compression of the video stream coming into your PC. Better boards perform their own compression, while the more inexpensive boards leave compression chores to your processor. If you go with a

and Edit Video

- 4 — **Capture and Check Your Results:** Once you capture the video, immediately play back the file. If it doesn't come out as you'd hoped, repeat the steps again before tweaking any settings.

Edit the Clip: Once you save the video on your PC, launch your editing software. Assemble the highlights, add transitions, and give the video a title. If your capture board doesn't record audio, avoid using lengthy clips in favor of a series of short ones to better sync sound with the video.

5

A Message From Our President



board that relies on the CPU for compression, make sure your PC is up to the task. You want a system with at least a 200MHz Pentium and 32MB of RAM—anything slower and you'll drop frames when running at the standard 30 fps. For extra insurance against herky-jerky video, upgrade your processor to a Pentium II with 64MB of RAM.

Choose Your Formats Another factor that separates the boards from one another is the type of video formats they capture to. The lower-end boards capture to AVI or JPEG, while the higher-end boards also support MPEG-1, a compact format ideal for the Web. If you need MPEG-1 and your board doesn't directly support it, you must convert your clips via software.

Pay attention to the type of applications that are bundled with the boards. Some devices provide bare-bones utilities, while better ones include top-notch video-editing software like Adobe Premiere. (For details on video-editing software, see "In the Editing Room," page 210.)

Finally, you also need to decide which type of device you want: internal or external. For hassle-free installation, look to one of the external models. For some of the more affordable internal products, keep in mind that you may need to remove your existing video card to use them. Some excellent products take the place of your graphics card, such as the Matrox Video, Graphics and TV Kit, adding video capture and a TV tuner to boot.

Wake Up the Room

You're not worried about being the last presenter of the day. After all, you've got a secret weapon—video. How do you know it works? You've already seen the payback when you added video to your Web site.

This could be you with the right video-capture hardware on your PC. Since you don't plan to create your own videotapes, you can get by with a board that supports lower resolutions and lets your CPU do the compression work. You can buy one of these bare-bones boards for less than \$100—just take a look at the \$65 AverMedia EZ Capture.

Still, you will probably want to pay more and get a device that gives you higher resolutions, more processing power, and room to grow. Of the 12 entry-level boards we looked at, your best bet for slick video without spending a fortune is the Matrox Video, Graphics and TV Kit. For \$349 it provides high-res captures at up to 704 by 480 resolution, thanks to onboard compression. The Matrox Kit also comes with an impressive software bundle that lets you do everything from video editing to MPEG conversion. Plus it packs a TV tuner so you can snag some of your favorite *Seinfeld* clips to send your friends—we won't tell.

Even with all this going for it, the Matrox Video, Graphics and TV Kit isn't for everyone, as it must take the place of your existing video card (unless you have a Matrox Mystique). If that's the case, buy the Rainbow Runner Studio daughtercard-only package



Video Replacement: Toss your graphics card and pop in this impressive \$349 bundle from Matrox. With the Matrox Video, Graphics and TV Kit you'll look like a video pro.

for \$199. Whether you go with the complete kit or the Rainbow Runner, installation is a snap.

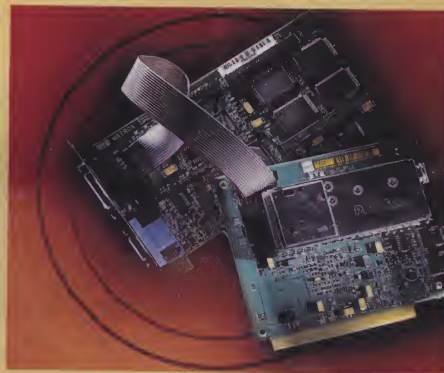
More Than Capture If you're game for swapping out your existing video card and don't want to spend as much, take a look at this trio of do-it-all boards. The \$359 ATI All-in-Wonder Pro, the \$229 Canopus Total3D, and the \$179 Elsa Winner

USABILITY HIGHLIGHTS

No two video-capture devices are exactly alike, but thankfully all the boards and external devices in this roundup are fairly easy to install. Here's what to watch out for.



Nice Pass: If you go with an external device like the Dazzle (shown here), which hooks up to your parallel port, make sure that it includes a pass-through connector so you can also attach your printer.



Give It Up: Be ready to sacrifice your video card. Many capture solutions—like the Matrox Video, Graphics and TV Kit (shown here)—handle both graphics acceleration and capture.

Affordable Video Capture

Product	Price*	Maximum Resolution (at 30 fps)	Video-Editing Software	Pros	Cons	Verdict
PC Computing BEST Matrox Video, Graphics and TV Kit (800) 844-8302 Enter 861 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink	\$349	704 by 480	Ulead Media Studio Pro 5.0 VE	High-quality video; works as a TV tuner.	Replaces your video card.	★★★★★ A video superstar that gives you plenty of options.
Alaris QuickVideo Transport (510) 770-5700 Enter 862 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink	\$149	320 by 240	Asymetrix Digital Video Producer	Easy to set up; great price.	Parallel port pass-through feature needs work.	★★★★★ Best of the external devices: affordable, easy to set up, and loaded.
ATI All-in-Wonder Pro (800) 882-2600 Enter 863 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink	\$359	320 by 240	MGI Video-Wave	Solid video quality; works as a TV tuner.	Replaces your video card.	★★★★★ A cross-training board that does a lot more than just capture video.
Data Translation Broadway Beginner (800) 249-1000 Enter 864 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink	\$495	352 by 240	Ulead Media Studio 2.5 VE	Best-quality video of the lot.	Expensive; two-step capturing takes more time.	★★★★★ The one to choose if you want top-quality clips.
Winnov Videum AV (888) 494-6668 Enter 865 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink	\$199	320 by 240	None	Includes audio support; decent price.	Lacks editing software.	★★★★★ For perfect audio-video syncing, this is the one to get.
AverMedia MPEG Wizard (800) 863-2332 Enter 866 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink	\$349 list	352 by 240	Cinax iFilmEdit	Easy to set up; captures to MPEG-1 format.	Pricey; parallel port pass-through could be better.	★★★★★ Save \$200 and get the Alaris QuickVideo Transport for the same easy setup.

*ESTIMATED STREET PRICE UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE.

★★★★★ Excellent ★★★★ Good ★★★ Acceptable ★★ Poor ★ Unacceptable



Cheap and Easy: Alaris's QuickVideo Transport connects to a parallel port.



Web Pro: The Broadway Beginner has the best quality clips.



Sound Choice: The Winnov Videum AV gives you audio support.

continued on page 202

2000/Office each replace your graphics card and add 3-D graphics acceleration as well as video capture. The ATI All-in-Wonder Pro is the best of this threesome with 320 by 240 resolution. It also packs a TV tuner, closed-captioning, and MGI VideoWave editing software. The Elsa, which supports 480 by 320 resolution, also works as a TV tuner and is a great choice for those who want support for the Open GL 3-D video standard.

Maybe a TV tuner is the main objective on your list with video capture as a nice extra you'll occasionally use. If that's the case, you can spend less for a board that does both jobs. Check out either the Diamond DTV 2000 (\$130) or the ixmicro TurboTV (\$99). Both boards capture video at 320 by 240 resolution and provide a TV tuner. The bundled software is limited, but at these prices, you can afford to pick up the package of your choice. (For more on

software, see "In the Editing Room," page 210.)

Step It Up What if you want all the features of the Matrox Kit but don't want to give up your trusty video card? Then invest in Data Translation's Broadway Beginner. At \$495, the Beginner is the most expensive board in this category, but you get what you pay for. The board produced the best-quality video of the group despite its 352 by 240 resolution, thanks to its onboard compression software. But to achieve this high-quality video, the Beginner makes you go through a two-step process: first you capture and preview the video, then the Beginner compresses and converts it to MPEG-1. While the results are worth it, capturing takes more time than with the other boards we looked at. However, the Broadway Beginner comes with an excellent software bundle, including Ulead Systems MediaStudio 2.5 VE video-editing software, as well

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<p>Common features listed above plus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13.3" XGA Active Matrix TFT Display • 96MB SDRAM Memory • 4GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive • 128-bit Graphics Accelerator with 65K Colors at 1024x768 • 56K Capable™ K-Flex Cellular Modem • 2nd Smart Lithium Ion Battery • MS Office 97 Small Business Edition • 6.9 Pounds* <p>★ Upgrade to 144MB SDRAM, add \$300. ★ Leather Carrying Case, add \$99. ★ Inspiron Port Replicator, add \$159.</p> <p>\$3899</p> <p>Business Lease^o: \$138/Mo., 36 Mos. Order Code #890201</p>	<p>Common features listed above plus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13.3" XGA Active Matrix TFT Display • 80MB SDRAM Memory • 4GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive • 128-bit Graphics Accelerator with 65K Colors at 1024x768 • Leather Carrying Case • MS Office 97 Small Business Edition • 6.9 Pounds* <p>★ 56K Capable™ x2 Modem, add \$149. ★ 2nd Smart Li-Ion Battery, add \$169. ★ 3Com® 10/100 Fast Ethernet Adapter, add \$169.</p> <p>\$3499</p> <p>Business Lease^o: \$124/Mo., 36 Mos. Order Code #890203</p>	<p>Common features listed above plus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13.3" XGA Active Matrix TFT Display • 32MB SDRAM Memory • 3.2GB ATA Hard Drive • 128-bit Graphics Accelerator with 65K Colors at 1024x768 • 56K Capable™ K-Flex Cellular Modem • Deluxe Nylon Carrying Case • MS Office 97 Small Business Edition • 6.9 Pounds* <p>★ Upgrade to 64MB SDRAM, add \$199. ★ Upgrade to a 4GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive, add \$99.</p> <p>\$3299</p> <p>Business Lease^o: \$117/Mo., 36 Mos. Order Code #890205</p>	<p>Common features listed above plus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13.3" XGA Active Matrix TFT Display • 32MB SDRAM Memory • 3.2GB ATA Hard Drive • 128-bit Graphics Accelerator with 65K Colors at 1024x768 • MS Office 97 Small Business Edition • 6.9 Pounds* <p>★ Upgrade to 80MB SDRAM, add \$299. ★ Upgrade to a 4GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive, add \$99. ★ 56K Capable™ x2 Modem, add \$149. ★ Deluxe Nylon Carrying Case, add \$69.</p> <p>\$2999[†]</p> <p>Business Lease^o: \$109/Mo., 36 Mos. Order Code #890207</p>

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NEW DELL LATITUDE CP M233XT 233MHz PENTIUM PROCESSOR WITH MMX TECHNOLOGY	NEW DELL LATITUDE CP M233XT 233MHz PENTIUM PROCESSOR WITH MMX TECHNOLOGY	NEW DELL LATITUDE CP M233XT 233MHz PENTIUM PROCESSOR WITH MMX TECHNOLOGY	DELL LATITUDE CP M233ST 233MHz PENTIUM PROCESSOR WITH MMX TECHNOLOGY
<p>Common features listed above plus:</p> <p>NETWORK-DESIGNED NOTEBOOK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13.3" XGA Active Matrix TFT Display • 128MB EDO RAM Memory • 512KB L2 Pipeline Burst Cache • 4GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive • 128-bit Graphics Accelerator with 65K Colors at 1024x768 • 56K Capable™ K-Flex Cellular Modem • Deluxe Nylon Carrying Case • 6.4 Pounds* <p>★ 3Com 10/100 Fast Ethernet Adaptor, add \$169.</p> <p>\$4799</p> <p>Business Lease^o: \$170/Mo., 36 Mos. Order Code #890202</p>	<p>Common features listed above plus:</p> <p>NETWORK-DESIGNED NOTEBOOK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13.3" XGA Active Matrix TFT Display • 64MB EDO RAM Memory • 512KB L2 Pipeline Burst Cache • 3.2GB ATA Hard Drive • 128-bit Graphics Accelerator with 65K Colors at 1024x768 • 6.4 Pounds* <p>★ Upgrade to 96MB EDO RAM, add \$199. ★ Upgrade to a 4GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive, add \$99. ★ Leather Carrying Case, add \$99.</p> <p>\$3999</p> <p>Business Lease^o: \$142/Mo., 36 Mos. Order Code #890204</p>	<p>Common features listed above plus:</p> <p>NETWORK-DESIGNED NOTEBOOK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13.3" XGA Active Matrix TFT Display • 32MB EDO RAM Memory • 512KB L2 Pipeline Burst Cache • 4GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive • 128-bit Graphics Accelerator with 65K Colors at 1024x768 • 6.4 Pounds* <p>★ C-Dock Expansion Station with Integrated 3Com 10/100 Fast Ethernet Adapter, Media Bay, Ultra SCSI-2 Port, Half-Height PCI Slot and Monitor Stand, add \$649.</p> <p>\$3899</p> <p>Business Lease^o: \$138/Mo., 36 Mos. Order Code #890206</p>	<p>Common features listed above plus:</p> <p>NETWORK-DESIGNED NOTEBOOK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12.1" SVGA Active Matrix TFT Display • 32MB EDO RAM Memory • 512KB L2 Pipeline Burst Cache • 2.1GB ATA Hard Drive • 128-bit Graphics Accelerator with 16 Million Colors at 800x600 • C-Port Advanced Port Replicator with Integrated 3Com 10/100 Fast Ethernet Adapter • 5.9 Pounds* <p>★ Upgrade to 48MB EDO RAM, add \$99.</p> <p>\$3699</p> <p>Business Lease^o: \$131/Mo., 36 Mos. Order Code #890208</p>



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233MHz PENTIUM PROCESSOR
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- Common features listed above plus:
- 13.3" XGA Active Matrix TFT Display
 - 32MB SDRAM Memory
 - 2.1GB ATA Hard Drive
 - 128-bit Graphics Accelerator with 65K Colors at 1024x768
 - MS Office 97 Small Business Edition
 - 6.9 Pounds*
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★ Upgrade to a 3.2GB ATA Hard Drive, add \$99.

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DELL INSPIRON 3000 M200ST
200MHz PENTIUM PROCESSOR
WITH MMX TECHNOLOGY

- Common features listed above plus:
- 12.1" SVGA Active Matrix TFT Display
 - 32MB SDRAM Memory
 - 2.1GB ATA Hard Drive
 - 128-bit Graphics Accelerator with 16 Million Colors at 800x600
 - MS Office 97 Small Business Edition
 - 6.4 Pounds*
- ★ Upgrade to 48MB SDRAM, add \$99.
★ Upgrade to a 3.2GB ATA Hard Drive, add \$99.
★ Upgrade to MS Office Professional, add \$215.

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Explorer ♦ Touchpad

DELL LATITUDE CP M233ST
233MHz PENTIUM PROCESSOR
WITH MMX TECHNOLOGY

- Common features listed above plus:
NETWORK-DESIGNED NOTEBOOK
- 12.1" SVGA Active Matrix TFT Display
 - 32MB EDO RAM Memory
 - 512KB L2 Pipeline Burst Cache
 - 3.2GB ATA Hard Drive
 - 128-bit Graphics Accelerator with 16 Million Colors at 800x600
 - 5.9 Pounds*
- ★ Upgrade to 64MB EDO RAM, add \$199.
★ Upgrade to a 4GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive, add \$99.

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DELL LATITUDE CP M166ST
166MHz PENTIUM PROCESSOR
WITH MMX TECHNOLOGY

- Common features listed above plus:
NETWORK-DESIGNED NOTEBOOK
- 12.1" SVGA Active Matrix TFT Display
 - 32MB EDO RAM Memory
 - 256KB L2 Pipeline Burst Cache
 - 3.2GB ATA Hard Drive
 - 128-bit Graphics Accelerator with 16 Million Colors at 800x600
 - Leather Carrying Case
 - 5.9 Pounds*
- ★ Upgrade to a 233MHz Processor, add \$300.
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Affordable Video Capture continued from page 199

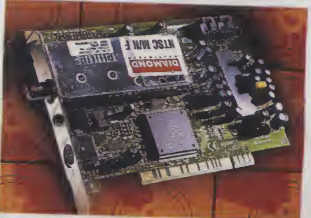
Product	Price*	Maximum Resolution (at 30 fps)	Video Editing Software	Pros	Cons	Verdict
Canopus Total3D 128V (888) 868-2533 <i>Enter 867 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink</i>	\$229	320 by 240	None	Good 3-D acceleration; fine video quality.	Replaces graphics card; lacks editing software.	☆☆☆ Choose it if you want a good 3-D accelerator to boot.
Dazzle Multimedia Dazzle (888) 436-4348 <i>Enter 870 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink</i>	\$299 list	352 by 240	Cinax iFilmEdit	Easy to set up.	Quirky parallel port pass-through.	☆☆☆ A solid choice for portable capture.
Diamond Multimedia DTV 2000 (888) 468-5846 <i>Enter 868 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink</i>	\$130	320 by 240	None	Enticing price; works as a TV tuner.	No editing software included.	☆☆☆ A bargain TV tuner with video capture thrown in for free.
Elsa Winner 2000/Office (800) 272-3572 <i>Enter 869 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink</i>	\$179	320 by 240	None	Great price for the package; works as a TV tuner.	Replaces existing graphics card; lacks editing software.	☆☆☆ For Open GL 3-D games, plus video capture and a TV tuner, you can't go wrong.
ixmicro TurboTV (888) 467-8282 <i>Enter 871 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink</i>	\$99	320 by 240	Asymetrix Digital Video Producer	Works as a TV tuner; excellent price.	So-so video quality.	☆☆☆ It's a steal for a bare-bones video-capture card and TV tuner.
AverMedia EZ Capture (800) 863-2332 <i>Enter 872 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink</i>	\$65	160 by 120	None	Amazing price.	Low resolution; lacks editing software.	☆☆ The least expensive way to get video into your PC.

*ESTIMATED STREET PRICE UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE.

☆☆☆☆ Excellent ☆☆☆ Good ☆☆☆ Acceptable ☆☆ Poor ☆ Unacceptable



Game Gear: The Canopus Total3D 128V is a great gaming card with capture.



TV Too: Buy the Diamond DTV 2000 TV tuner and get free video capture.



Bargain Hunter: For \$65 AverMedia's EZ Capture lets you dabble with video.

as a video archiving utility and a library of sound clips.

Another high-quality option that won't set you back much is the \$199 Winnov Videum AV. The Videum AV is unique in that it's the only board that has onboard audio support. If you plan to capture long video clips, you may want to consider the Videum, as video and audio are nearly impossible to sync if you rely on your existing sound card.

Easy Out Want video, but don't want to crack the case on your machine? Or want a solution everyone in the office can share? Go with one of the trio of external units that connect to your printer port. The \$149 Alaris QuickVideo Transport, the \$349 AverMedia MPEG Wizard, and the \$299 Dazzle offer a pass-through feature so that your printer can still work off the same port—in theory. In our tests, however, we had trouble getting our printer to work reliably when any of the units was also hooked up.

All three of these devices support at least 320 by 240 resolution and also double as video-frame grabbers, so you can take video snapshots as with Play's popular Snappy. While the AverMedia and the Dazzle are pricey for the features you get, all three are ideal for working with a notebook. The best in this trio is the Alaris QuickVideo Transport, which includes fine editing software and costs significantly less than the other two external units. If you want to capture directly to MPEG, though, buy the AverMedia MPEG Wizard.

Finally, you've got one more thing to consider. Do you also want the ability to print to tape—the realm of the high-end boards (see page 206). There's a handful of entry-level boards that suffice: the ATI All-in-Wonder Pro, the Data Translation Broadway Beginner, the Elsa Winner, the Matrox Kit, and the Canopus Total3D 128V.

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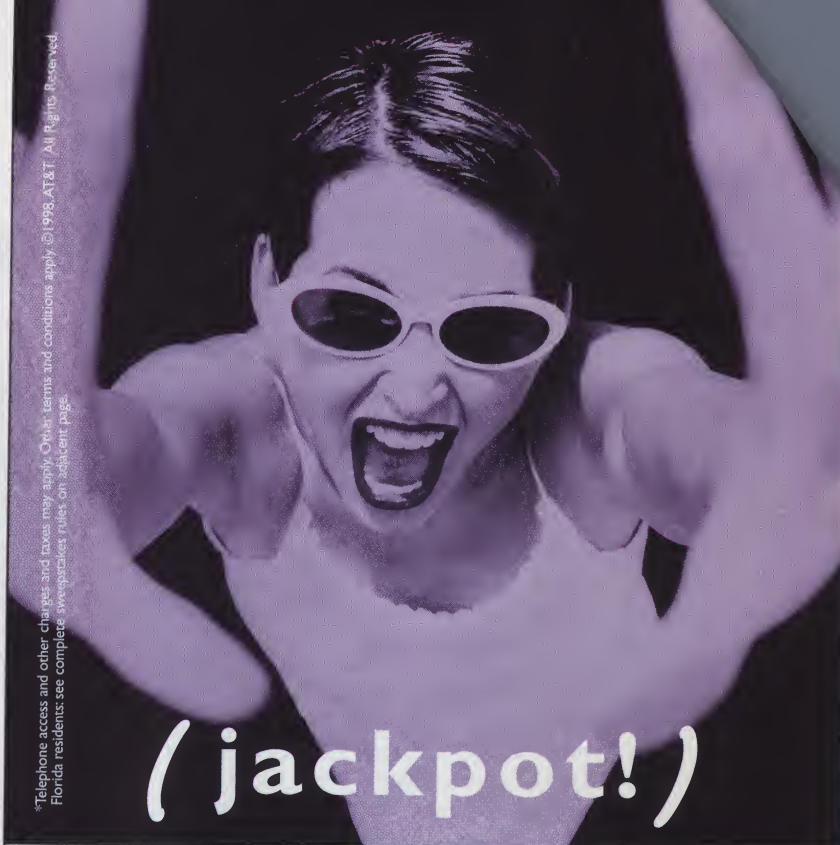
To run AT&T WorldNet Service on your Macintosh®, you will need: 1) Macintosh® running System 7.1 or higher or Power Macintosh® running System 7.5.3 Rev 2 or higher; 2) Apple Open Transport 1.1+ (if using Open Transport); 3) 8MB RAM (or more for better performance) with Virtual Memory turned on; 13-20MB of available hard disk space, depending on platform; 4) A modem connected to a phone line running at 14.4 kilobits per second or faster, but not to a Local Area Network (LAN) or ISDN line.

No purchase necessary. Sweepstakes ends 1/27/99. Void where prohibited. For official rules and alternate entry method, write to AT&T WorldNet Rules, P.O. Box 7408, Melville, NY 11775-7408. Florida residents: see complete sweepstakes rules on adjacent page.

OFFICIAL RULES - NO PURCHASE OR ONLINE USE NECESSARY SWEEPSTAKES ARE OPEN TO RESIDENTS OF THE UNITED STATES AND ALL ENTRANTS AGREE THAT U.S. LAW SHALL APPLY EXCLUSIVELY - TWO WAYS TO PLAY

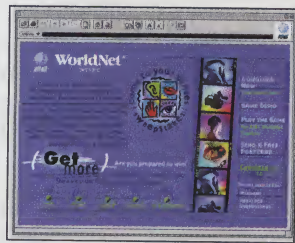
1. Sweepstakes Entry: To enter the Sweepstakes via the Internet you must be an AT&T WorldNet® Service member utilizing AT&T WorldNet® Service. To enter on-line visit the AT&T WorldNet® Service's Come to Your Senses Sweepstakes page at <http://www.worldnetnow.net> or at <http://www.watt.net> from 1/29/98 through 1/27/99 and follow the link to the Sweepstakes. Over the course of the Sweepstakes there may be different methods of on-line entry which will be described on the "How to Play" page. Once you understand the directions outlined on the "How to Play" page you may click on the "Registration Page" and complete the official entry form by filling in your name, address, telephone number and e-mail ID and a few survey questions. Once all the game requirements are completed (as described in the "How to Play" page) your name will be entered in a weekly drawing, a quarterly drawing and a Grand Prize drawing (at the end of the promotion). **Weekly Drawings:** On-line entries must be received by 11:59 p.m. ET each Wednesday following the week in which you wish to enter in order to be eligible for that week's drawing. For example, entries must be received by 11:59 p.m. ET on Wednesday, February 4, 1998 to be eligible for the first week's drawing, the first quarterly drawing and the Grand Prize drawing. On-line entries received by 11:59 p.m. ET on Wednesday, January 27, 1999 will be entered in the final weekly drawing, the final quarterly drawing and the Grand Prize drawing. **Quarterly Drawings:** On-line entries must be received by 11:59 p.m. ET on Wednesday, April 29, 1998 to be eligible for the first quarterly drawing. On-line entries must be received between 12:00 a.m. ET on Thursday, April 30, 1998 and 11:59 p.m. ET on Wednesday, July 29, 1998 to be eligible for the second quarterly drawing. On-line entries must be received between 12:00 a.m. ET on Thursday, July 30, 1998 and 11:59 p.m. ET on Wednesday, October 28, 1998 to be eligible for the third quarterly drawing. On-line entries must be received between 12:00 a.m. ET on Thursday, October 29, 1998 and 11:59 p.m. ET on Wednesday, January 27, 1999 to be eligible for the fourth and final quarterly drawing. **Grand Prize Drawing:** All on-line entries received between 12:00 a.m. ET on Thursday, January 29, 1998 and 11:59 p.m. ET on Wednesday, January 27, 1999 will be eligible for the Grand Prize drawing. Use of automated entry devices or programs is prohibited. Normal Internet access and usage charges imposed by AT&T WorldNet Service will apply. Local, long distance or 800 access charge to reach AT&T WorldNet Service and any additional access charges or taxes that may be imposed on members or on AT&T WorldNet Service may also apply to all usage. If you are not an AT&T WorldNet Service member and wish to subscribe, visit AT&T at <http://download.att.net> and follow instructions to download the AT&T WorldNet Service software or call 1 800 WORLDNET to order free AT&T WorldNet Service software. If you do not wish to enter on-line or, if you are not an AT&T WorldNet Service member and you do not wish to subscribe, you may enter by mailing in a separate envelope a plain piece of paper on which you have printed your name, complete address, zip code, telephone number, e-mail address (if applicable) and the words "Come to Your Senses Sweepstakes" to: COME TO YOUR SENSES SWEEPSTAKES P.O. Box 7100, Melville, NY 11775-7100. There will be weekly drawings between 1/29/98 and 1/27/99 from among all on-line/paper entries received for each week, four quarterly drawings and one Grand Prize drawing at the end of the promotion from among all entries received. Enter as often as you wish by mail but each paper entry must be mailed separately be postmarked by the Wednesday following the week in which you wish to be entered and received no later than one week after postmark date. No photocopies, reproductions or facsimiles allowed. Sponsor is not responsible for late, lost, illegible, incomplete, stolen, misdirected, or postage due mail. All paper entries received will be entered in the weekly and quarterly drawings that correspond to their postmarks. Paper entries postmarked by Wednesday, April 29, 1998 and received by May 6, 1998 will be eligible for the first quarterly drawing and the Grand Prize drawing. Paper entries postmarked between April 30, 1998 and July 29, 1998 and received by August 5, 1998 will be eligible for the second quarterly drawing and the Grand Prize drawing. Paper entries postmarked between July 30, 1998 and October 28, 1998 and received by November 4, 1998 will be eligible for the third quarterly drawing and the Grand Prize drawing. Paper entries postmarked between October 29, 1998 and January 27, 1999 and received by February 3, 1999 will be eligible for the fourth quarterly drawing and the Grand Prize drawing. Mechanically reproduced paper entries will not be accepted. Sweepstakes ends 1/28/99. **2. Sweepstakes Prizes: Grand Prize (1):** Winner's choice of one of the following BMW's: 528i 4dr Sedan, Z3 Roadster, M3 Coupe, or 328ic Convertible up to a value of \$40,000 plus \$10,000 spending money (Estimated Retail Value \$50,000). Quarterly Prizes (4 — 1 awarded every quarter): First Quarter Prize: A 7-night trip to Las Vegas and the Grand Canyon for two. Includes round trip first class air transportation from the major airport closest to the winner's home, limousine transfers between airport and hotel, hotel accommodations (one bedroom suite at Caesars Palace), six days of limousine service at 12 hour intervals, show tickets to three Las Vegas shows, helicopter tour of the Grand Canyon, video camera and \$5,000 spending money (Est. Retail Value \$30,000). Second Quarter Prize: Ultimate Home entertainment Center, including a 61" big screen TV, surround sound audio system, PC and printer, video camera, fax, cordless phone, clock radio and \$5,000 spending money (Estimated Retail Value \$30,000). Third Quarter Prize: A trip for two to Paris, France. Includes round trip economy class air transportation from a major airport closest to winner's home to New York, dinner in NYC, round trip business class air transportation from New York to Paris, five-night deluxe hotel accommodations (double occupancy), including breakfast, five nights of gourmet dining at selected Michelin 3 star restaurants, midnight show at The Lido cabaret, guided tour of The Palace at Versailles followed by lunch, morning cooking class at Escoffier Cooking School, and \$5,000 spending money (Est. Retail Value \$30,000). Fourth Quarter Prize: A trip for two to Bali, Indonesia. Includes round trip first class air transportation from a major airport closest to winner's home to Bali, seven-night deluxe hotel accommodations in a one bedroom villa including private plunge pool at the Four Seasons resort (double occupancy), including breakfast, one lunch at beachside restaurant, one dinner in "The Dining Room", one massage each (select from a Balinese massage, Nemedial massage, Reflexology or Aromatherapy), one Essence Spa package and \$5,000 spending money (Est. Retail Value \$30,000). **Weekly Prizes (\$20 — 10 awarded each week):** To see which prizes are being awarded for that week, go to the home page at <http://www.worldnetnow.net>, or <http://www.watt.net> and follow the navigational link to the sweepstakes home page where you will find the navigational link to the Prize Page. Or, to send for a list of prizes that will be awarded each week, write to: AT&T WorldNet Prizes, P.O. Box 7408, Melville, NY 11775-7408. **3. Winner Selection:** Winners will be selected in a random drawing from among all eligible entries received. Drawings will be conducted by National Judging Institute, Inc., an independent judging organization whose decisions are final on all matters relating to this sweepstakes. The quarterly drawings will be conducted on or about June 5, 1998, September 4, 1998, December 4, 1998 and March 3, 1999. The Grand Prize drawing will be conducted on or about March 3, 1999. Odds of winning are dependent upon the number of entries received. Limit one weekly prize per person per week. **4. Instant Win Entry:** Look for an Instant Win Game icon that is located on the sweepstakes site after clicking the "play the game" button. Click on the icon to play the game. If you are a winner, the message will indicate "Winner". If you are not a winner the message will indicate "Try Again". Limit ten opportunities to determine whether you are a winner per person per day. Or, for a chance to win without playing online, hand print your name, complete address, zip code and phone number on a 3" x 5" paper and mail in an envelope to: COME TO YOUR SENSES INSTANT WIN GAME, P.O. Box 7200, Melville, NY 11775-7200. On the day an eligible request is received, official personnel of the independent judging firm will play one (1) Instant Win Game play on behalf of each eligible request postmarked between January 29, 1998 and January 27, 1999, inclusive, and received by February 3, 1999. Official personnel of the independent judging firm will play two (2) Instant Win Game plays on behalf of one half (selected at random) of all mail in entries received on Mondays and the days following holidays when no mail is delivered. Only winners will be notified by e-mail, or regular mail. Each play request must be mailed in a separately stamped envelope. No photocopies, reproductions or facsimiles allowed. Sponsor is not responsible for late, lost, illegible, incomplete, stolen, misdirected, or postage due mail. Limit ten (10) plays per person, per day, whether play is on-line or by regular mail. Any additional entries will void all entries for that person. Each play period is from 12:01 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. ET each calendar day during promotional period. **5. Instant Win Prizes and Likelihood of Winning:** To see which Instant Win prizes are being offered each day, go to the home page at <http://www.worldnetnow.net>, or <http://www.watt.net> and follow the navigational link to the sweepstakes home page where you will find the navigational link to the Prize Page. Or, to send for a list of prizes that will be awarded each day, write to: AT&T WorldNet Prizes, P.O. Box 7200, Melville, NY 11775-7200. Two winning game messages will appear at randomly selected times during each day throughout the promotional period based on a 24-hour clock (Start time 12:01 a.m. and time 11:59 p.m. ET). The first person who plays after a randomly selected time will be a winner (subject to verification). If no play is made after a randomly selected time, and the 24-hour clock changes to the next day, no prize will be awarded for that time. Likelihood of winning depends on the randomly selected time and a participant being the first to play after the randomly selected time. **6. General Conditions:** The Grand Prize and all weekly and quarterly prizes will be awarded and winners will be notified by e-mail or regular mail. In the event the Grand Prize or any Quarterly Prize is won by a minor, it will be awarded in the name of a parent or legal guardian. Prizes are nontransferable and no substitutions are allowed except by sponsors who reserve the right to substitute a prize of equal or greater value if advertised prize is unavailable. 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Eligibility:** Sweepstakes open to residents of the U.S., except employees and their families of AT&T WorldNet Service, its affiliates, subsidiaries, contractors, advertising agencies, and Don Jagoda Associates, Inc. This offer is void wherever prohibited or restricted by national, state or any governmental laws. Subject to all federal, state and local laws and regulations. **8. Winners List:** For a list of winners, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to: COME TO YOUR SENSES SWEEPSTAKES WINNERS, P.O. Box 7282, Melville, NY 11775-7282 or click on to the home page at <http://www.worldnetnow.net> and follow the navigational link to the Winners' Page. For a copy of these Official Rules write to P.O. Box 7408, Melville, NY 11775-7408. **9. Sponsor:** AT&T Corp., Basking Ridge, NJ 07920.

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When it comes to capturing video you plan to print back to tape, the stakes are raised. The capture card you choose needs to produce higher-quality clips because the final result will play back full-screen on a TV. We rounded up seven such professional-level capture devices, which range from \$249 to \$999 and give you the option to save your work back to videotape.

Our top pick for the task is Pinnacle Systems' miroVideo DC30 Plus, which at \$999 is the most expensive product we reviewed. The miroVideo gets highest honors because it captures and compresses broadcast-quality video, and it includes the complete version of Adobe Premiere, our favorite among video-editing packages. The board also has its own audio hardware to ensure audio-video synchronization.

A strong second choice is the DPS EditBay, which offers the same professional-quality performance for \$150 less. If you don't mind giving up Adobe Premiere, it's a better deal. We found that DPS's own editing software, DPS Video Action and DPS Benchmark, is a powerful combination that rivals Premiere.

Camera-Ready DPS offers another high-end capture solution—the Spark. This board is unique in that it requires a FireWire connection to a digital video



Best Bundle: The \$999 Pinnacle miroVideo DC30 Plus captures audio and video for flawless clips. With Adobe Premiere included, you couldn't ask for more.

camera, such as the Canon Optura. Because the video from your digital video camera is already in digital format, you simply connect the Spark to the camera to retrieve the video. The Spark, unlike the EditBay, includes the full version of Adobe Premiere. While digital video is the future of video capture, you'd better set aside money for a large, fast SCSI hard drive to

USABILITY HIGHLIGHTS

Editing your own videotapes is trickier than simply capturing clips to add to a Web site or presentation. To make the process as painless as possible, keep in mind the following pointers.



No Capture Required: Edit videos without adding a capture card to your PC. Pinnacle's VideoDirector (shown here) connects your camcorder and VCR to your PC's parallel port to do the job.



FireWire: If you want to edit the footage from your new digital video camera, make sure the capture card you buy has a FireWire connection, as in the DPS Spark (shown here).

CAN YOU REALLY AFFORD TO HAVE A SMALL HARD DRIVE?



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Professional Video Capture

Product	Price*	Maximum Resolution (at 30 fps)	Video Editing Software	Pros	Cons	Verdict
 Pinnacle Systems miroVideo DC30 Plus (888) 484-3366 <i>Enter 873 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink</i>	\$999	704 by 480	Adobe Premiere 4.2	Excellent output; great software.	Highest price in this group.	★★★★★ Look like a pro with this powerful hardware-software combo.
DPS EditBay (800) 775-3314 <i>Enter 874 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink</i>	\$849	720 by 480	DPS Video Action and Bench-press	Sharp video quality; high resolutions.	Uses proprietary software.	★★★★★ Put up with its software and get great results.
DPS Spark (800) 775-3314 <i>Enter 875 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink</i>	\$799	Limited only by source	Adobe Premiere 4.2	Standout video; speedy.	Works only with FireWire digital video camera.	★★★★★ With the right hardware, the Spark is the clear choice.
Pinnacle Systems VideoDirector Studio 200 (888) 484-3366; <i>Enter 876 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink</i>	\$249	Limited only by source	Pinnacle Video Director	Amazing price; great software.	Can't capture video to PC.	★★★★★ An inexpensive way to edit your videos.
Data Translation Broadway 2.5 (800) 249-1000; <i>Enter 877 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink</i>	\$899	352 by 240	Ulead Media Studio	Captures directly to MPEG-1.	Pricy; lacks audio support.	★★★ The best one for MPEG-1 work.
Dazzle Multimedia Snazzi (888) 436-4348; <i>Enter 878 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink</i>	\$399	352 by 240	Ulead MediaStudio 2.5	Great price and software; built-in audio.	Lower resolutions and quality.	★★★ You don't have to spend a lot to get a lot.
Pinnacle Systems miroVideo DC20 Plus (888) 484-3366; <i>Enter 879 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink</i>	\$599	640 by 480	Ulead Media Studio 5.0	Good price; high-quality output.	Lacks integrated audio.	★★★ Give up audio and you'll save a bundle.

*ESTIMATED STREET PRICE.

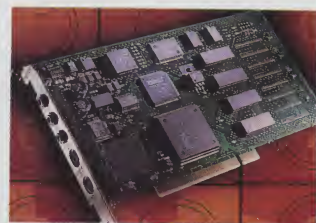
★★★★★ Excellent ★★★★ Good ★★★ Acceptable ★★ Poor ★ Unacceptable



Value-Conscious: Get high quality for a reasonable price with the DPS EditBay.



Easy Editing: The external Pinnacle VideoDirector Studio 200 edits only tapes.



Big Bundle: Bargain hunters will love the \$399 Dazzle Multimedia Snazzi.

store your work because the Spark works best with SCSI. If you've got the right hardware, though, the Spark-Premiere combo offers broadcast-quality video for a relative bargain at \$799.

Want high-quality video capture for less? Go with the \$599 miroVideo DC20 Plus, which forgoes the onboard audio of the DC30. Another great choice is Data Translation's Broadway 2.5, which is easy to use and captures directly to MPEG-1.

If cash flow is a factor, the \$399 Dazzle Multimedia Snazzi is a good bet. Like the miroVideo DC30 and the DPS boards, the Snazzi has its own sound hardware for perfectly synced audio and video. But what really sets the Snazzi apart is its software bundle, which includes Ulead MediaStudio 2.5, MetaCreations Kai's Power Goo SE, and Adobe PhotoDeluxe 2.0.

Different Strokes Finally, there's the Pinnacle VideoDirector Studio 200, one of the most interesting

boards we looked at. While at \$249 it's priced low enough for casual use, it isn't designed for capturing video into your PC. Instead, the VideoDirector connects to your VCR and camcorder simultaneously, turning your PC into a video-editing studio without actually capturing and digitizing the video. Think of the VideoDirector as the middleman that moves video from your camcorder to your VCR. Using VideoDirector couldn't be more straightforward: Play the source videotape and the small external unit automatically detects the beginning and end of scenes or clips on your source tape. The clips appear onscreen as thumbnails and you can assemble them in any order and add sound effects, titles, and transitions. Hit a button and the machine controls your VCR and camcorder to assemble a finished tape. Very slick. If all you want is to edit videos with your PC, this is the product to buy.

In the Editing Room

Getting video into your PC is just the beginning. To really do anything special with your footage, you need a video-editing package that lets you assemble those clips into a finished video with titles, effects, and transitions. While most of the capture devices we looked at come with some type of editing software, many lack full editing suites like these. For the best all-around packages, take a look at our top three picks.

ADOBE PREMIERE The granddaddy of desktop video editing, Adobe Premiere 4.2 has all the features that the pros crave, and it's the fastest package you'll find. Besides its excellent feature set, Premiere also happens to be the de facto standard for high-quality video editing on the PC. That means two things: You have a huge selection

of plug-ins and filters for working with Premiere, and it's easy to share your files. But with its arsenal of advanced features comes a learning curve. And at \$595, Premiere is pricey compared with the

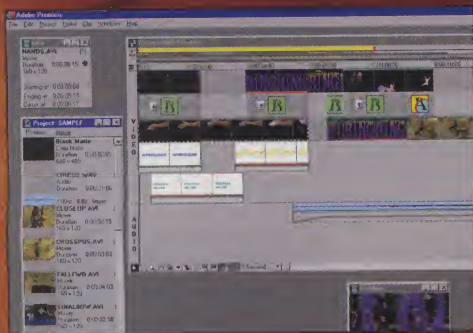
line. But unlike Premiere, Lumiere focuses on making things simple for newcomers. For example, Lumiere's SmartSound Wizard eases soundtrack creation and generates sound clips that match your specifications. It even fades the audio at the end of the clip. While lacking the breadth and maturity of Premiere or Ulead MediaStudio, at just \$90 Lumiere is quite a value.

Lumiere Video Suite / IMSI / (800) 833-8082 / \$90 est. street price / Enter 881 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

ULEAD MEDIASTUDIO A happy medium between Premiere and Lumiere is Ulead System's MediaStudio Pro 5.0. This newest version is as simple to use as Lumiere but packs most all the sophisticated tools you find in Premiere. In fact,

MediaStudio includes more built-in filters and has some high-end features like data-rate control and color-analysis tools that Premiere lacks. If you don't need Premiere's wide support, save \$100 and go with MediaStudio.

MediaStudio Pro 5.0 / Ulead Systems / (800) 858-5323 / \$495 est. street price / Enter 882 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink



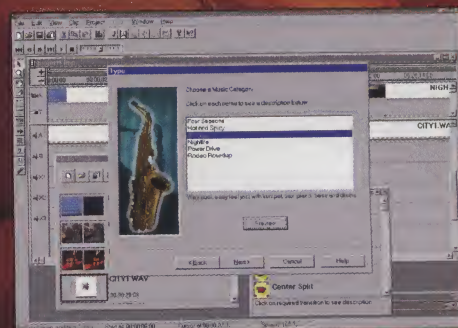
Pro Power: Adobe Premiere 4.2 packs all the tools you need for making professional videos—and it's lightning-fast.

competition. Ulead MediaStudio, its main rival, matches Premiere feature for feature among those most typically used in day-to-day editing. Still, for the best high-end effects and performance overall, go with Premiere.

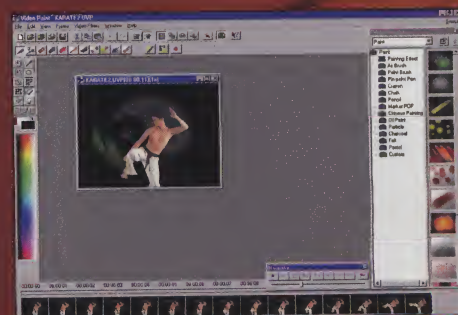
Premiere 4.2 / Adobe Systems / (888) 729-4507 / \$595 est. street price / Enter 880 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

IMSI LUMIERE If the video work you're doing is strictly for presentations then Premiere is overkill. Lumiere is designed with the corporate-presentation crowd and home-video hobbyist in mind. IMSI bundles Lumiere with two other complete applications: Motion 3D, a 3-D rendering and animation package that lets you generate slick 3-D flying titles, and Photopaint 6 for tweaking still images. IMSI tops off this formidable trio with stock video and music clips that you can use in your presentations, as well as thousands of pieces of clip art and 100 fonts.

Lumiere is in many ways a Premiere clone. Like Premiere, you create videos by dragging and dropping clips and other components onto a time



Bargain Box: For presentations, save a bundle with IMSI Lumiere, which lets you drag and drop clips to create videos.



Easy Option: Editing video isn't just for pros. Ulead MediaStudio Pro 5.0 gives you a broad range of simple-to-use tools.

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Whether you spruce up a Web page, ramp up your presentations, or edit your own videotapes, video is finally easy and affordable enough for the rest of us.

For Web and presentation work, you can spend just a few hundred dollars for a flexible solution that grows with you. Our top pick is the \$349 Matrox Video, Graphics and TV Kit, which handles high-resolution capture and supports output to videotape. Another standout is the \$359 ATI All-in-Wonder Pro, which offers a lot more than just a video-capture card; it includes a high-speed graphics card, a TV tuner, and closed-caption monitoring in a single board.

If you don't want to give up your current graphics accelerator, then the equally impressive Data Translation Broadway Beginner warrants a look. At \$495 you pay more, but video quality is excellent. A lower-price option is the \$199 Winnov Videum AV. Not only does the Videum AV provide solid video quality, it supports sound too—meaning you don't have to worry about audio and video that's out of

sync. Or take the easiest route and choose an external device that hooks up to your PC's parallel port. The best of the lot is the \$149 Alaris QuickVideo Transport.

You'll want to step up to a more sophisticated video-capture card if your goal is to create and edit videos that ultimately end up back on tape. Your first choice here is the \$999 Pinnacle miroVideo DC30 Plus, which includes a full copy of Adobe Premiere—a \$595 value in itself. Or save over \$150 and go with the \$849 DPS EditBay, although it limits you to its own video-editing combination. For those who own a FireWire digital video camera, the DPS Spark can't be beat for its video quality or performance. But if editing videotapes is all you plan to do, consider the \$249 Pinnacle VideoDirector Studio 200, an external device that hooks up between your camcorder and VCR.

DAVE GERDING is a technology writer who specializes in video and communications.

DECISION MAKER

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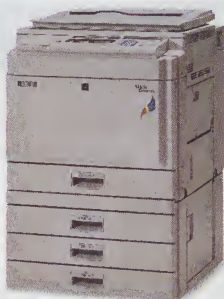
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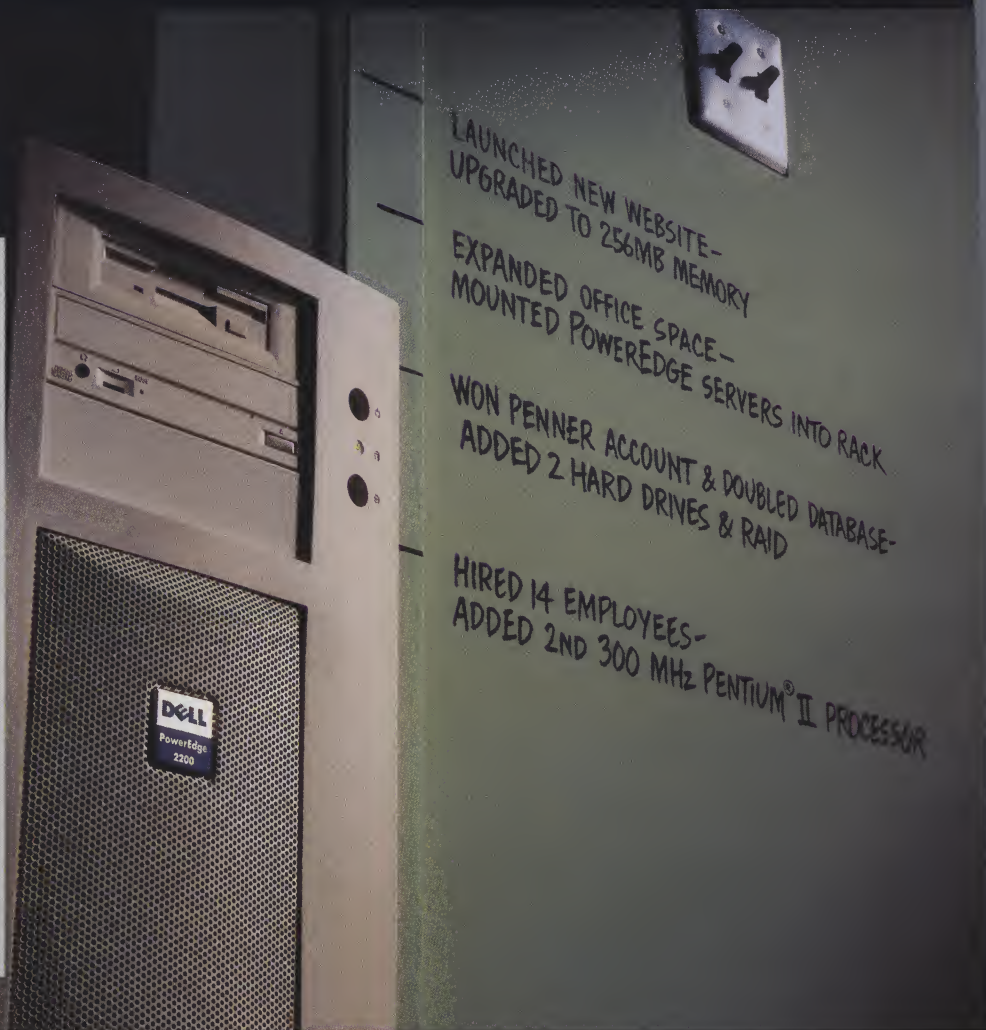
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By Wayne Kawamoto

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If that weren't enough cause for celebration, the newest breed of accounting packages gives you the financial upper hand without making you think like an accountant. Effortlessly issue invoices and purchase orders, maintain payroll and inventory, track time and billing, and even issue payments electronically.

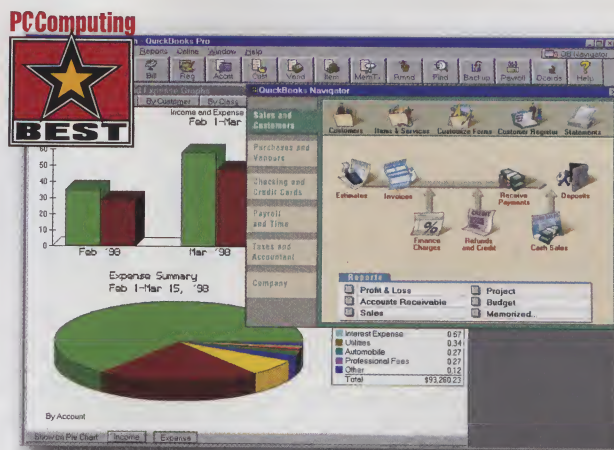
To help you get started, we looked at four best-selling accounting packages: AccPac Simply Accounting 5.0,

BestWare M.Y.O.B. Accounting Plus 7.5, Intuit QuickBooks Pro 5.0 for Windows, and Peachtree Complete Accounting Plus Time & Billing. Do you really need to spend more money to get the job done? To find out, we also reviewed Microsoft Office 97 Small Business Edition.

Quick Work All the accounting packages we tested are easy to use. But if you want the best of the lot, choose Intuit QuickBooks Pro 5.0. Its flowchart menus make it a snap to fill out routine business forms like invoices and purchase orders. And QuickBooks offers more than just a pretty face: It provides powerful reporting tools, supports online bill payment, and includes a solid time-tracking feature so you can keep accurate billing hours for separate clients.

QuickBooks Pro also gives you basic inventory tracking, although you can't apply different costing methods beyond average costing, and you can't manage inventory through builds. If you're in the business of manufacturing goods, you're better served by the more sophisticated features found in Peachtree Complete Accounting Plus Time & Billing. Still, for most service-oriented businesses such as retail outfits, consulting companies, and law firms, QuickBooks Pro is the best.

For businesses with large inventories to track,



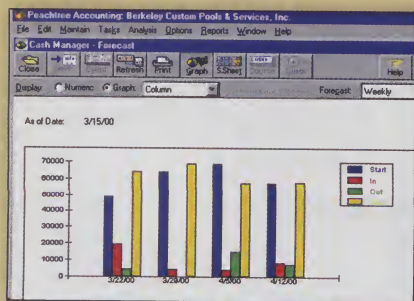
At Your Service: Intuit QuickBooks Pro 5.0 for Windows 5.0 proves you don't have to be a CPA to handle accounting chores. Its friendly interface is a natural for service and retail businesses.

complex time and billing to keep straight, or networked accounting software needs for multiple users, Peachtree Complete Accounting is a better bet. It's more comprehensive than QuickBooks, yet still fairly easy to use thanks to new navigation tools and a multimedia setup feature.

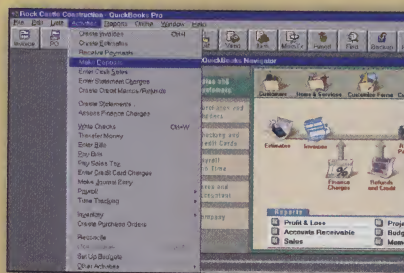
Along with excellent inventory tracking, which

Usability Highlights

You shouldn't have to know what a declining-balance depreciation method is just to balance the books. Better packages nix the accounting terminology and guide you through complicated tasks.



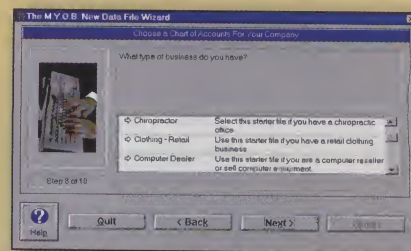
Show Me: Peachtree Complete Accounting's multimedia tutorial steps you through the process of setting up your business's finances and making the most of the program.



Speak Easy: Intuit QuickBooks Pro gives you a jump start by using plain English instead of accounting terms.



Step by Step: Peachtree Complete Accounting, like Intuit QuickBooks and BestWare M.Y.O.B., uses flowcharts to demystify the accounting process so you don't miss an important step.



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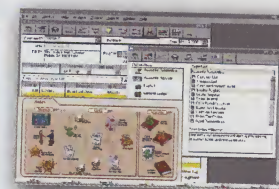
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Top Accounting Packages

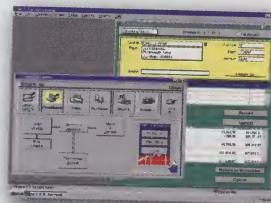
Product	Price*	Unique Features	Pros	Cons	Verdict
 Intuit QuickBooks Pro 5.0 for Windows (800) 446-8848 Enter 676 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink	\$199	No accounting background required.	Easy to set up and use; excellent reporting.	Lacks network support; limited inventory features.	★★★★★ An accounting package that doesn't require an accounting degree to use.
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Microsoft Office 97 Small Business Edition (800) 426-9400 Enter 680 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink	\$499, \$209 for upgrade	What-if tools and advanced reporting.	Excellent reporting tools; easy to use; you probably already own it.	Lacks standard accounting features.	★★ A great companion to—but no substitute for—a full-featured package.

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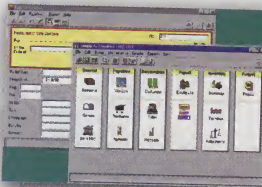
★★★★★ Excellent ★★★★★ Good ★★★★★ Acceptable ★★ Poor ★ Unacceptable



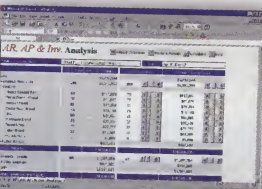
Peachtree Complete Accounting Plus Time & Billing



BestWare M.Y.O.B. Accounting Plus 7.5



AccPac Int'l Simply Accounting 5.0



Microsoft Office 97 Small Business Edition

handles back orders, drop shipments, and multiple pricing levels, Peachtree excels at time and billing. It records time, purchases, and travel expenses you incur on behalf of clients, then integrates this information into its invoicing and payroll modules.

Peachtree's analysis and reporting tools are also first-rate and the package supports electronic banking and payroll to save you even more time and hassle.

Two in the Red The other two accounting packages we looked at, M.Y.O.B. Accounting Plus 7.5 and AccPac Simply Accounting 5.0, are bargains compared with QuickBooks and Peachtree. But they prove the adage that you get what you pay for. Both are more difficult to use than Quicken and Peachtree, and they lack advanced features like tracking time and billing as well as network support (the \$449 M.Y.O.B. Premier Edition has peer-to-peer network support). If you're on a tight budget, M.Y.O.B.'s

Standard Edition takes care of the basics. But AccPac Simply Accounting is better left on the shelf.

Suite Deal Since many businesses already own and use Microsoft Office 97 Small Business Edition, which includes the Small Business Financial Manager Excel add-on (plus Word, Excel, Outlook, and Publisher), why not use it to help manage your finances? We found that while Small Business Financial Manager is a great analysis and reporting tool, it can't take the place of an accounting package. Still, it makes a great complement to any one of the four programs here because you can import accounting data and have the Small Business Financial Manager take over. While it builds standard accounting reports like balance sheets, it also includes unique tools for calculating things like inventory turnover. And it comes with a nifty what-if tool that helps you figure out such scenarios as how a rise in prices might affect your bottom line.

The Balance Sheet

With a small-business accounting package, you take control of your finances—and give your bean counter the boot. The easiest way to get started is clearly Intuit QuickBooks Pro 5.0. Its forms and report features are top-notch, and best of all, you don't need to know a thing about the accounting process to manage your business's finances. Also, if you're now tracking those finances with Intuit Quicken, QuickBooks Pro is the logical choice, and the transition is easy.

While QuickBooks Pro is ideal for service-oriented businesses, it doesn't have the extra muscle needed for managing manufacturing shops or businesses that need network support (though the next version of QuickBooks, due out in a few months, will support multiple users). For businesses where inventory tracking and time and billing features are critical, Peachtree Complete Accounting Plus Time & Billing is the package you should use.

Best of all, this newest version of Peachtree Complete Accounting is much easier to use than its predecessors. It's still not as simple as QuickBooks, but it

does an excellent job despite its complex features. Peachtree also surprises with its competitive price tag—just about \$50 more than QuickBooks.

M.Y.O.B.'s \$149 Standard Edition is another option if you're on a budget. It has solid inventory tracking, but it lacks time and billing features. If you need network support, you can get M.Y.O.B.'s Premier Edition, which works on a peer-to-peer network, for \$449. But you're better off buying Peachtree at about half the price.

The other full accounting package we looked at, AccPac Simply Accounting, is difficult to use and lacks many of the features that the other packages have. Finally, Microsoft Office 97 Small Business Edition doesn't do the job of managing your business on its own, but it makes a great addition to a stand-alone accounting package.

WAYNE KAWAMOTO *lives in Southern California and writes about computers, software, finance, and small business.*

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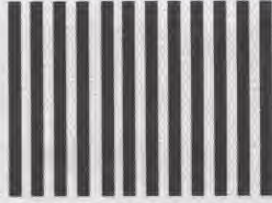
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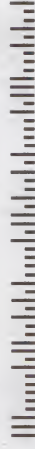
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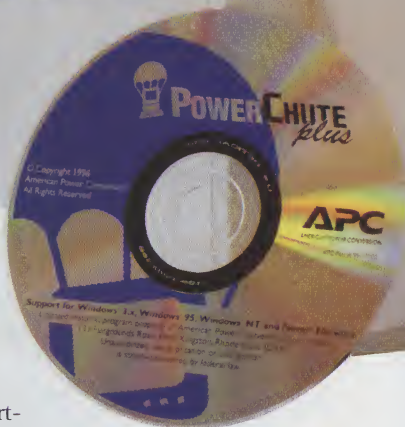


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WOODY'S Windows Clinic

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It breaks my heart. I see them all the time, here at Woody's Windows Clinic: PCs on their last legs, straining under the weight of Windows 95's shortcomings and mounds of neglect. It's the end of the line and I move from desk to desk cataloging their ailments, listening to their feeble beeps and whirs.

Is your computer headed for a similar fate? Is it about to succumb to the cumulative effect of endless general protection faults? Do the remnants of obsolete programs clog your system's innards? Has your PC picked up a nasty virus? For that matter, would you even know if your PC was infected?

Follow along with me as I do the rounds here at the Clinic. I'll point out the most common problems—the ones I encounter every day—and show you how to fix them, recover from them, and prevent these disasters from taking out your PC.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY DAVID PERRY

Problem

Lingering Applications

If every software program's uninstaller did what it was supposed to do, there would be no need for separate uninstaller packages. In theory, every Windows application that sports the Designed for Microsoft Windows 95 logo should include an uninstaller. When you want to wipe out all traces of a program, you simply run the utility or delete the program via the Control Panel's Add/Remove Programs applet. Of course things don't work that way in practice. A lot of programs with inadequate uninstallers fall through the cracks. Uninstallers vary widely in their ability to recognize and eliminate unwanted files, folders, and Registry settings. Most uninstallers can delete unused program files, but many fail to remove shared programs; some won't even clean up the Registry or eliminate Desktop shortcuts.

Solution

You need a good uninstaller to tidy up the mess left behind by old programs, but that isn't the whole story. Surfing the Web also leaves an enormous amount of garbage on your hard drive: cached files, cookies, and downloaded controls and programs that can clog up your system worse than any leftover applications.

A good uninstaller utility keeps your system trimmed down to fighting weight. The most thorough and capable uninstaller is Quarterdeck's CleanSweep Deluxe. One of the best things about the program is that you can keep it up-to-date with Internet downloads. As soon as you have CleanSweep working, click on the Options tab and run Update-It to download the latest program updates from Quarterdeck's Web site. We tested version 3.0, which

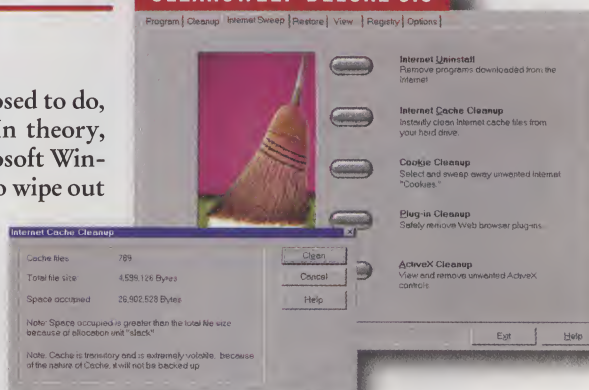
contains several important patches for Microsoft Internet Explorer 4.0.

CleanSweep identifies unused and duplicated files with extraordinary dexterity. Its Safety Sweep option categorizes files as green (a likely candidate for deletion), yellow (possibly an important file), or red (definitely a vital file), and makes it easy to eliminate the former and difficult to destroy the latter. Clear, concise wizards admonish you to back up files that may be needed later and carry out file identification, backup, and cleanup with a few clicks.

CleanSweep also keeps tabs on Web cookies, ActiveX controls, and browser plug-ins, eliminating this Web debris along with associated Registry entries.

CleanSweep Deluxe 3.0 / Quarterdeck Corp. / (800) 683-6696 / \$59 est. street price / Enter 829 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

CLEANSWEEP DELUXE 3.0



Also Consider

Norton Uninstall Deluxe: Covers many of the same features as CleanSweep, although its wizards aren't as powerful. Its AutoClean feature deletes cached Web pages when Windows restarts.

Symantec Corp. / (800) 441-7234 / \$40 est. street price / Enter 830 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

MicroHelp UnInstaller 4.5: It's less powerful than CleanSweep, but it's also more conservative. Competent and quick, this is the best choice if you're concerned that you might unknowingly delete an important file, but don't want to sweat the details. MicroHelp doesn't even give you the option to delete things it deems sacrosanct.

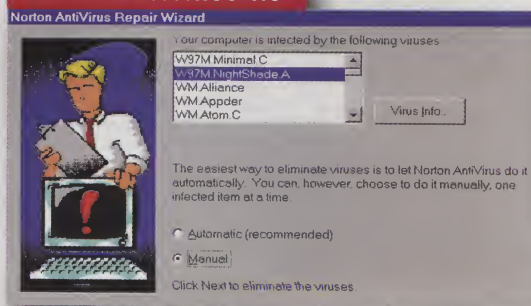
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Problem

Virus Infection

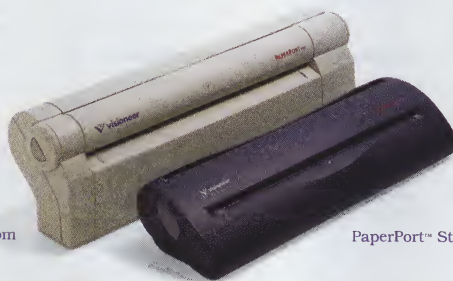
Until a few years ago, most computer viruses were spread on floppy disks. As long as you were careful not to boot from an infected floppy, your chances of contracting a data-destroying virus were slim. But that all changed in August 1995 when the first Microsoft Word macro virus, known as Concept, began infecting Word documents. Suddenly, simply opening a document could infect your system, and virus writing became something of a closet cottage industry. Add to that the impact of the Internet, which makes spreading infected documents all too easy. Today there are more than 3,500 Word macro viruses alone.

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And you're far more likely to be infected by a macro virus than any other kind.

Problem is, many people whose machines are infected with a Word macro virus have no idea that they have one. Here are two telltale signs: If Word lets you save new documents only as DOT templates, or random words in your documents move around every time you save, chances are you're the victim of a Word macro virus.

To protect yourself, rely on an antivirus package that zaps macro viruses along with the more traditional DOS and Windows boot-sector variety.

Solution

When it comes to anti-virus protection, you want the utility that finds the most viruses before they find you. And that program should eradicate the intruder and repair any damage it has left behind.

Norton AntiVirus 4.0 brings strong virus detection with patented heuristic technology for sniffing out previously unidentified viruses. This may be more marketing smoke than antiviral fire, but it can't hurt to be prepared. And Symantec automatically notifies you via e-mail when it has new virus detection files available—a welcome touch.

Viruses travel quickly. You have to be quicker. No matter which antivirus package you use, you should log on to the manufacturer's update site once a week to download the latest detection files.

Norton AntiVirus 4.0 / Symantec Corp. / (800) 441-7234 / \$50 est. street price / Enter 832 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

Also Consider

VirusScan Deluxe 3.1.2: It runs neck and neck with Symantec in finding viruses. Plus it has an extremely intuitive interface.

VirusScan also helps you keep your virus detection files up-to-date.

Network Associates / (800) 338-8754 / \$69 est. street price / Enter 833 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

F-Prot Professional 3.01 for Windows 95:

If you aren't intimidated by a clunky interface and want the finest antivirus technology along with detection files that are updated hourly, check out F-Prot Professional.

Command Software Systems / (800) 423-9147 / \$49 est. street price / Enter 834 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

Dr Solomon's Anti-Virus version 7: This package sniffs out just about every kind of virus out there. It also excels at scanning inside ZIP files of every imaginable type.

Dr Solomon's Software / (888) 377-6566 / \$50 est. street price / Enter 835 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

PC-cillin 3.0: If your goal is simply to zap viruses and you don't care about advanced settings, this is an excellent choice. PC-cillin offers the simplest interface of the bunch.

TouchStone Software / (800) 531-0450 / \$45 est. street price / Enter 836 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

IBM AntiVirus 3.0: While most antivirus packages support multiple platforms, only IBM AntiVirus 3.0 supports Windows 95, Windows NT, Windows 3.x, OS/2, and DOS in the same box. And IBM's virus scanner runs faster than its competitors'.

IBM Corp. / (800) 742-2493 / \$49 est. street price / Enter 837 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

Microsoft Word 97 Built-in Protection:

One additional safeguard that's frequently overlooked is Word 97's own virus settings. Go to Tools, Options, General, and select the Macro Virus Protection checkbox. Now whenever you try to open a file that contains attached macros, Word will first display a dialog-box warning about macros. While this approach is far from foolproof—not all documents with macros are infected, and certain viruses propagate without triggering the message—the option provides an additional level of protection, a final opportunity to thwart all but the most insidious infections. Best of all, it's free.

Microsoft Corp. / (800) 426-9400 / free with Microsoft Office and Microsoft Word 97 / Enter 838 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

Problem

Data-Destroying Crashes

If you have used Windows 95 for more than a week, you've certainly come face-to-face with the dreaded general protection fault (GPF). It usually appears as a message that says, "This program has performed an illegal operation and will be shut down." Unfortunately, GPFs are part of working with Windows, and even the best-behaved applications occasionally trigger a GPF. The result can be devastating: At a very minimum, the offending program almost always shuts down and takes any unsaved work along with it. Worse, it's not at all uncommon for a GPF to lock up Windows entirely—and even the infamous three-finger salute (Ctrl-Alt-Del) fails to restart your system. In those cases, the GPF may destroy unsaved data in all your running programs.

REALHELP

Crash Defender

Crash Defender has intercepted a read access violation at 3F012FF0 caused by 32-bit app EXCEL.EXE.



Choose the Fix button, then save your work and exit the program.
Choose the Save Problem Info button to create a file you can send to tech support.
Choose the End Task button to shut down the program.

Detail

Fix

Save Problem Info

End Task

Solution

Here at the Clinic we most commonly encounter data-swallowing GPFs when running Microsoft Office applications, because that's where we spend most of our time. We devised a test to mimic our experiences by putting together an Excel 97 macro that reliably triggered a GPF. Then we installed each of the major GPF-intercepting utility

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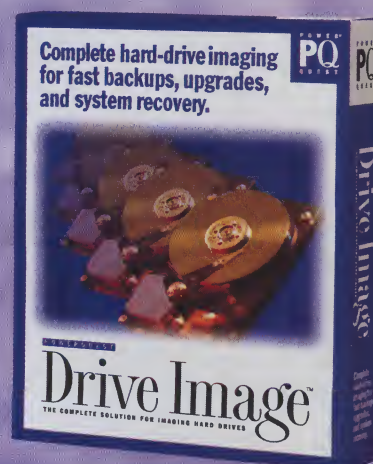
a snap. Simply copy everything from your old drive to your new drive. You can even specify the size of the partitions on the new drive during copying so everything fits the first time. And Drive Image is fast. Its patent-pending SmartSector™ technology works up to two to three times faster than straight file-by-file or sector-by-sector methods of copying. That saves you time and a lot of aggravation. For more information about Drive Image, visit our Web site at **www.powerquest.com**. To clone multiple workstations, contact PowerQuest for information on additional licensing options. Call **1-800-379-2566** for details.

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programs and tested them one by one to see if they could intercept the GPF and return us to Excel, at least long enough to let us save our data. Sadly, most of the contenders didn't fare very well.

Download our GPF-producing Excel 97 spreadsheet and see how well your GPF protection utility stands up to the Clinic's test. Look for the file called GPF.XLS at the *PC Computing* Web site (www.pccomputing.com).

The best of the bunch, Quarterdeck's RealHelp Extra Strength, intercepted the GPF, then kept it at bay long enough for us to save changes to the spreadsheet. When we tried to close Excel through all the usual methods, though, Excel refused. Ultimately we hit Ctrl-Alt-Del and chose Shut Down. Excel finished normally and Windows returned.

Nuts & Bolts' Bomb Shelter, uh, bombed. It detected the GPF, but when we clicked on Bomb Shelter's Recover button, everything froze. There was no opportunity to save the changes to the spreadsheet, nor could we shut Excel down gracefully. We ultimately had to hit the PC's reset button to get Windows 95 working again.

Norton Utilities 3.0's CrashGuard fared worse. It didn't even acknowledge the GPF—there was no sign of life whatsoever; the screen froze. We tried to click on the shield in the system tray to unfreeze Excel, but again nothing happened. Once more, we had to hit the reset button.

RealHelp Extra Strength / Quarterdeck Corp. / (800) 683-6696 / \$40 est. street price / Enter 839 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

Also Consider

First Aid 98 5.0: It let us get back to Excel and save our data—but then Excel froze completely. We had to shut the program down using Ctrl-Alt-Del. When we tried to reboot immediately afterward, Windows froze at the "Please wait while your computer shuts down" screen. It took a punch of the reset button to get things going again.

CyberMedia / (800) 721-7824 / \$40 est. street price / Enter 840 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

Problem

Plug and Play Woes

Not long ago, we at the Clinic expected Windows 95's Plug and Play to relegate hardware nonsense like IRQ conflicts and DMA allocations to the garbage heap of ancient computer terms. No such luck. While it's true that many of today's fancy add-in boards can configure themselves, there are more than enough legacy cards floating around to fill Lake Washington. All it takes is one non-Plug and Play card (or one Plug and Play card that doesn't work quite right) to make installing new hardware an absolute nightmare. Add to that the increasing number of PCs that use all or almost all the available IRQs, and you have the formula for disaster.

Solution

The best reporting, hands down, came from TouchStone's CheckIt 5.0, a versatile, powerful troubleshooter that belongs in every advanced Windows user's bag of tricks. Check-It's System Spy can tell you what has changed since its last snapshot of the hardware and key system files. Its QuickCheck Sanity Check gives detailed reports on how you can make your system work better.

CheckIt 5.0 / TouchStone Software / (714) 969-7746 / \$50 est. street price / Enter 841 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

Also Consider

Windows 95 Device Manager: It is good enough in most cases, and you'll find it by opening Control Panel, System, Device Manager; highlighting Computer; then clicking on Properties. If you're considering Quarterdeck's RealHelp Extra Strength, skip it in favor of Device Manager. We found that RealHelp's primary undercover diagnostic capability simply copies the information from Windows 95's Device Manager. One caveat about Device Manager: Beware of its printed report—sometimes it doesn't match the correct onscreen report.

Microsoft Corp. / (800) 426-9400 / included with Windows 95 / Enter 842 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

IRQ	Standard Usage	Status	Device Connected
0	Timer	In Use	System timer
1	Keyboard	In Use	Standard 101/102-Key or Microsoft Natural Keyboard
2	Slave SCSI	In Use	Programmable interrupt controller
3	CDM2	In Use	Communications Port (COM2)
4	CDM1	In Use	Communications Port (COM1)
5	LPT2	In Use	Creative Sound Blaster 16 Plug and Play
6	Floppy	In Use	Standard Floppy Disk Controller
7	LPT1	In Use	Printer Port (LPT1)
8	RTC	In Use	System CMOS/Real time clock
9	EGA/ VGA 2	In Use	Intel Enhanced Graphics 16 or 161P
10	Misc.	In Use	Synchr. Logic 528-416 SCSI Adapter (for HP ScanJet)
11	Misc.	In Use	Direct Draw Stealth 64 Video 2001 PCI v. 4.02.096 (D)
12	PS/2 Mouse	In Use	Microsoft PS/2 Port Mouse
13	Coprocessor	In Use	Numeric data processor
14	Hard disk	In Use	Intel PIIX PCI IDE Controller (Bus Mastering not supported)
15	Misc.	In Use	Primary IDE controller (dual flo)
	Misc.	Shared	Intel PIIX PCI IDE Controller (Bus Mastering not supported)
	Misc.	Shared	Secondary IDE controller (dual flo)

DMA	Status	Device Connected
0	Free	Available
1	In Use	Creative Sound Blaster 16 Plug and Play
2	In Use	Standard Floppy Disk Controller
3	Free	Available
4	In Use	Direct memory access controller
5	In Use	Creative Sound Blaster 16 Plug and Play
6	Free	Available
7	Free	Available

Nuts & Bolts 1.03: This program listed available IRQ, DMA, and I/O base address resources correctly, but it often misidentified which cards were using the resources.

Network Associates / (800) 338-8754 / \$49 est. street price / Enter 843 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

AMIDIag 5.22: If you're serious about getting to the heart of what ails your PC, the only real solution relies on good ol' DOS. AMIDIag 5.22 slices, dices, pokes, and prods your PC, giving you all the info you need. And the extra \$299 software and hardware kit gives you every tool required to run your own clinic.

American Megatrends / (800) 828-9264 / \$149 est. street price / Enter 844 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

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Hiawatha Bray, Boston Globe

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Jim Sundeen, PC Today



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Infolink 308 at: www.pccomputing.com/infolink

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Problem

Flaky Hard Drive

When your hard drive's about to go, the best you can hope for is a quick warning and enough breathing room to make last-minute backups of your most precious data. In practice, that almost never happens: There's rarely a warning, and when one appears it tends to take the form of a gravelly rumbling that precedes the drive's demise by seconds. Most frequently, you know your drive is out to lunch when you try to boot your machine and see the infamous Fixed Disk Failure message, or find that Windows doesn't work at all. Sometimes you get lucky and find that rebooting a few times works. But most of the time you're plain out of luck.

Solution

Prevention rules. Windows 95 includes excellent utilities for scanning and defragmenting your hard drive. In Windows Explorer, simply right-click on the drive, choose Properties, and then Tools. Windows also includes adequate backup software, although hard drive prices have fallen so low that many users simply buy an extra drive and copy vital files onto it.

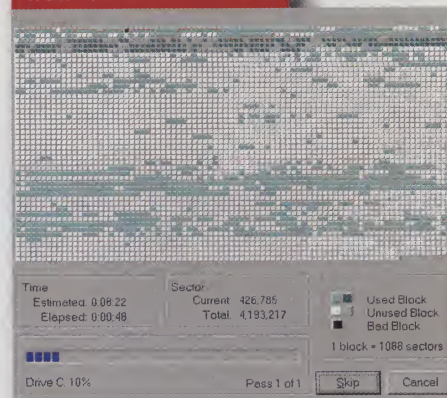
Anticipating drive failure is another question altogether. Frankly, we're skeptical of manufacturers' claims of superiority in disk-failure monitoring and protection: The variables are too many, and failures too infrequent, to point to a definitively superior approach.

Many of the latest hard drives have additional sensors to help determine when a drive is approaching failure. This so-called Smart technology is supposed to give you advance warning—up to several days—before your drive goes belly-up. It's still too early to tell if Smart will live up to its promise, but several software utilities work to make the most of it.

At the Clinic we use Symantec's Norton Utilities 3.0. Its Norton Disk Doctor utilities are easy to find and use, and they cover the full range of prevention, Smart detection, and repair.

Norton Utilities 3.0 / Symantec Corp. / (800) 441-7234 / \$79 est. street price / Enter 845 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

NORTON UTILITIES 3.0



Also Consider

RealHelp Extra Strength: Another good example of Smart technology, with excellent utilities for scanning, testing, and defragmenting hard drives.

Quarterdeck Corp. / (800) 683-6696 / \$40 est. street price / Enter 839 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

First Aid 98 5.0: Think of it as the psychic adviser to your PC. It warns of trouble lurking ahead for your hard drive, and it offers utilities to scan, test, and defragment it.

CyberMedia / (800) 721-7824 / \$40 est. street price / Enter 840 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

Problem

Unwieldy Files

Running out of hard disk space? Blame it on all those beefy files gobbling your computer's hard drive. You can stretch your amount of free space with a utility that compresses files. Most files contain enormous amounts of redundant information. The typical Windows document or text file, for example, can be compressed to half its original size. While programs and certain types of image files can't be packed so tightly, file compression remains an important part of any serious Windows user's repertoire.

Solution

If you're running out of room on your hard disk and don't want to shell out the money for a second drive (and don't mind a small performance hit), the choice is clear: Microsoft's DriveSpace

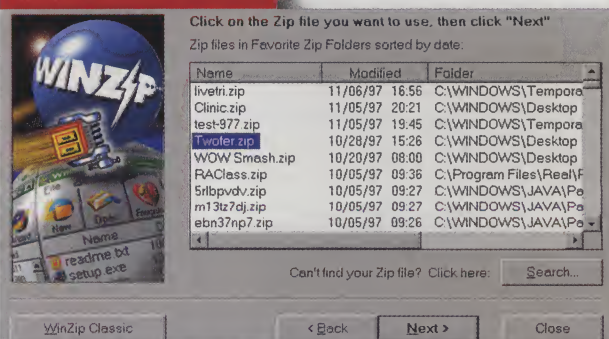
3, included in the Windows 95 Plus package beats the competition cold.

On the other hand, if you want to compress a few files—either to conserve disk space or to send a file over the Internet—you can choose from a wide

variety of competing products, any of which will serve you well. By far, the most common format for compressed files is ZIP, a technique perfected by Phil Katz in his seminal product, PKZip.

At the Clinic we like to use WinZip

WINZIP 6.3



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6.3 for handling ZIP files, because it integrates so well into Windows without taking things over. Extensive wizards ease the learning curve, and new Web-friendly features, like the Internet Browser Support add-on that downloads and unzips files automatically, keep things simple. WinZip handles Uuencode and other Net-oriented standards like a champ, so when we encounter an oddly formatted e-mail message, we save it as text and open it with WinZip. Nine times out of ten, WinZip strips away the extraneous garbage and reconstructs the message's components.

WinZip 6.3 / Nico Mak Computing / (800) 242-2775 / \$29 est. street price / Enter 848 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

Also Consider

Nuts & Bolts 1.03: Of the major all-in-one Windows 95 utility packages, Nuts & Bolts provides the most comprehensive ZIP coverage, with full drag-and-drop support.

Network Associates / (800) 338-8754 / \$49 est. street price / Enter 843 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

ZipMagic 1.0: ZipMagic hides much of the inner workings of zipping and unzipping, automatically handling folders named with a ZIP extension. That makes it easy, for example, to run a program inside a ZIP file without going through the extra step of unzipping the file.

Mijenix Corp. / (800) 645-3649 / \$40 est. street price / Enter 850 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

Drag And View 2.0: It does more than zip files; it also converts image file formats, changes color depths, and rotates and flips images.

Canyon Software / (800) 280-3691 / \$35 est. street price / Enter 851 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

Zip-It 4.0: It covers all the standard bases and also lets you view or download parts of a ZIP file on the Web instead of the whole file.

Quarterdeck Corp. / (800) 683-6696 / \$40 est. street price / Enter 852 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

PKzip 2.60 for Windows: If you need to search the contents of a ZIP file or if you're looking for ZIP support on a non-Windows platform, the original PKzip fits the bill.

PKware / (414) 354-8699 / \$49 est. street price / Enter 853 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

Problem

Emergency Boot

One of the most common human maladies we see here at the Clinic can best be described as a sinking feeling in the pit of the stomach, accompanied by a stream of words not suitable for print. More often than not, those symptoms occur at precisely the same time a PC fails to boot to Windows.

Solution

The basic solution to this problem is simple: Make sure you have an updated boot disk. Windows 95 itself contains everything you need to make a boot disk. Just go to the Control Panel and select the Add/Remove Programs icon, then click on the Startup Disk tab.

If that's not good enough for you, there are plenty of other options available, since nearly every major Windows utility package also contains a component that creates emergency boot disks with varying contents and capabilities. These are fine solutions, but they don't make it easy to get your system up and running. For that purpose only Symantec's Norton Utilities 3.0 fits the bill: Only Norton can create an emergency disk that boots to Windows 95 entirely from removable media—in this case, an Iomega Zip drive.

What's the big deal? Getting into Windows 95—no matter what—is no

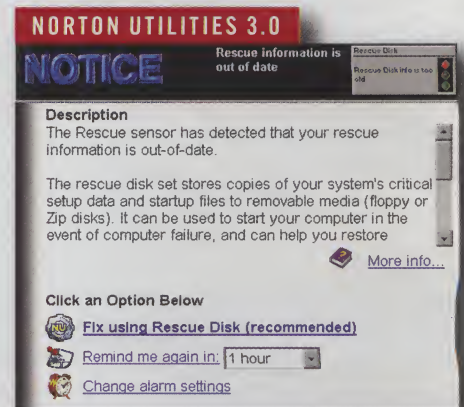
small feat. For example, if your main hard drive expires, most emergency boot disks simply dump you at the DOS prompt. If you're very lucky you may have enough drivers floating around on floppy disks to get your CD-ROM drive or network card working again. But even under the best circumstances you can expect to spend hours fumbling around with arcane and long-forgotten DOS commands.

Instead, use Norton's Zip Rescue. It copies all your Windows 95 files to a Zip disk, then puts the appropriate start-up programs on a floppy disk. Most important, it copies the Zip disk driver to the floppy. If you boot with a Zip Rescue disk in the A: drive, your machine will install the Zip disk driver, then boot Windows 95 from the Zip drive. Best of all, this isn't a Safe Mode Windows or a stunted version of some sort. We're talking about the real thing—all of Windows 95, with all your settings intact and all your

drivers working—even if your main hard drive is belching smoke.

Although we encountered some difficulties with the prerelease version of the software (Symantec assures us the problems will be fixed by the time you read this), we were very impressed by the technology. We wouldn't be surprised to see other utility makers jump on the bandwagon. But for now, this is the only ticket. We use it at the Clinic all the time. If you have a Zip drive on your computer—and these days, who doesn't—you need this utility.

Norton Utilities 3.0 / Symantec Corp. / (800) 441-7234 / \$79 est. street price / Enter 845 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

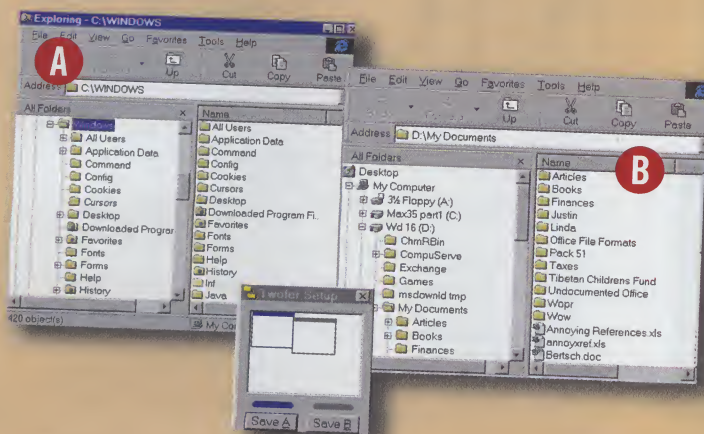


FIND FILES FASTER

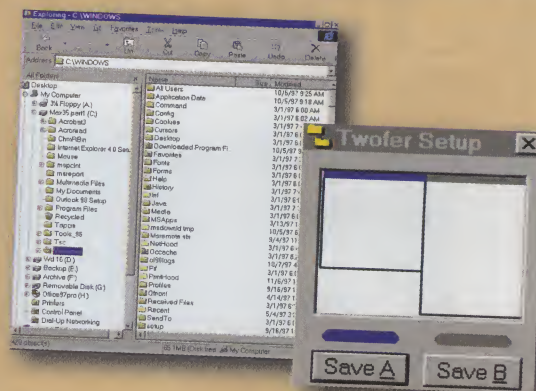
When you go into Windows 95 Explorer, nine times out of ten you're there to move or copy a file from one folder to another. So why does Windows make it so difficult? While you can launch two copies of Explorer to make it easier to shuttle files back and forth, Windows puts the two Explorer windows on top of each other. Not exactly what you wanted, eh?

We get around that problem with a program called Twofer, a free utility we created here at the Windows Clinic that's available exclusively from www.pccomputing.com. Twofer launches two copies of Windows Explorer side by side. The location and size of the Explorer windows are entirely up to you, and you can even pick which folders Explorer should open when it starts. It's very slick and very useful.

Contributing Editor and Clinic Consultant Emeritus VINCENT CHEN designed and built Twofer. SCOTT KRUEGER, the Clinic's Hack in Residence, provided the GPF-inducing code for GPF.XLS.

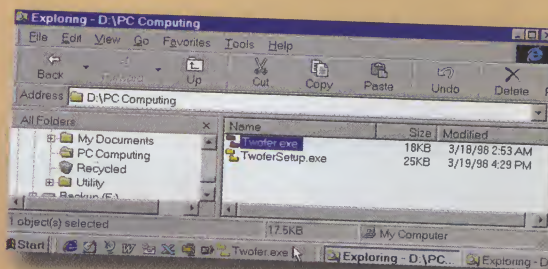


Step 1: Download TWOFER.ZIP and extract the two files to a handy folder. Run TWOFERSETUP.EXE. You'll see two Windows Explorer windows (labeled A and B above) and a small window marked Twofer Setup.



Step 2: Start with the leftmost Explorer window—the A window. Resize the window so it takes up much of the left side of your screen. Then navigate to a useful starting directory—in this case we set the A side to C:\Windows. When you're happy with the location and starting directory of the A window, click on Save A. Similarly, resize the B window and set its starting directory. When it looks right, click on Save B.

Step 3: Close down the Explorer A and B windows and the Twofer Setup window. Now you're ready to run Twofer. Create a Desktop shortcut to TWOFER.EXE by clicking on the file and dragging it to the desktop. Better yet, if you're using Internet Explorer 4.0, put Twofer on the Windows Taskbar by clicking and dragging TWOFER.EXE onto the Taskbar.





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So hot

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CVideo-Mail / Cubic VideoComm / (888) 295-0833 / \$149 est. street price / Enter 899 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink



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Rage 3D Game Pad / ThrustMaster / (503) 615-3200 / \$40 est. street price / Enter 900 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

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SOHO Master / New Perspective Software / (888) 522-8334 / \$250 est. street price / InfoLink No. 901

Spring Cleaning

Organize Your Office

Spring is in the air. It's time to clear away the cobwebs, clean the dust bunnies from behind your PC, and get organized. Maybe you don't have Martha Stewart at your disposal, but the following tools can help. . . .

Stop the Squalor So many CDs, so few places to store them. Don't use your CDs as coasters; house them in Case Logic's CR-30 CD-ROM Storage Case.

This scratch-resistant case has 6 slots to hold up to 30 discs. You can mount it on the wall or stack multiple cases to save desktop space. And if the back of your PC is a rat's nest of cables, Case Logic also makes CT-6 Cable Ties. These handy, color-coded plastic strips wrap around your cables to keep them from tangling. They come in packs of 6 (CR-30, \$8; CT-6 Cable Ties, \$4, est. street prices; 800-447-4848). . . .

Mini Assistant Get your schedule and contacts in order with the Philips Velo 500 handheld PC (above right). It puts an end to shuffling through stacks of business cards, fumbling for your appointment book, and searching for scraps of paper. Sporting a 640-by-240 grayscale touch-screen, a built-in 28.8Kbps modem, and a 75MHz processor, it uses Windows CE 2.0 (\$639 est. street price; 888-367-8356). . . .

Paper Be Gone Take a look at your desk.

Wait, can you even see your desk? Or is it buried under mounds of documents, faxes, receipts, photos, and paper? Get out from under all that clutter with Computhink's Paperless Office 2.0 document

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Clean Machine If you're going to roll up your sleeves and really do some housecleaning, you need the right supplies. ACL



Information To Go: Philips' Velo 500 gives you names, numbers, and other contact info when you need it.

Staticide makes a complete line of cleaning products strong enough to fight dust and grime, but safe enough to use on your computer, fax machine, laser printer, CD-ROM discs and drives, and tape backup drives (prices vary; 800-782-8420).

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Enter InfoLink numbers at www.pccomputing.com/infolink: CR-30, 902; CT-6 Cable Ties, 903; Velo 500, 904; Paperless Office, 905; ACL Staticide, 906.

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Look Sharp in Color

You don't have to spend thousands on a color laser printer to create eye-catching newsletters and spiffy color documents. The latest batch of color ink jets deliver excellent results at prices that are right for tight budgets. We looked at five color ink jets ranging from \$200 to \$400: the



All Around: The HP DeskJet 722C offers excellent print quality. Its output surpassed that of the higher-resolution printers we tested.

DeskJet 722C / Hewlett-Packard / (800) 752-0900 / \$349 est. street price

Hewlett-Packard DeskJet 722C, the Lexmark 7200 Color Jetprinter, the Epson Stylus Color 600, the NEC SuperScript 750C, and the Canon BJC-4304 Photo.

Each promises high-resolution printing—from 600 dpi all the way up to 1,440 by 720 dpi. Translation: sharper fonts, lifelike color photos, and better shading than printouts produced by traditional 300-dpi printers.

Ink jets are far from perfect, however. They're slower than a glacial flow and a poor choice for businesses that need to churn out hundreds of identical brochures or pamphlets in a hurry. And since their color inks aren't

waterproof, a wet page will quickly metamorphose into impressionist art. Despite these shortcomings, color ink jets are undoubtedly the best, most versatile printers for your dollar.

Fast and Bright

The \$349 Hewlett-Packard DeskJet 722C delivers the best print quality of the bunch. Our testers marveled at the

DeskJet's crisp, brilliant output. Even though the DeskJet's top resolution (600 dpi) is lower than the Epson's (1,440 by 720 dpi) or the Lexmark's (1,200 dpi), it

managed to produce higher-quality output.

The DeskJet was also one of the fastest printers we tested. It printed our 2-page Word document—a single-spaced collection of fonts and text colors—in roughly 3.5 minutes—2 minutes quicker than the next-fastest printer, the Lexmark 7200. We also liked the DeskJet's compact dimensions and paper output tray, which slides under the printer to save space.

While the DeskJet's price is relatively high in this bargain pack—only the \$399

Lexmark is pricier—its outstanding print quality and fast performance make it the best choice for the SOHO crowd.

Quality for a Price

The Lexmark 7200 Color Jetprinter is another good bet. Although at \$399 it's the priciest printer in this

roundup, it gets high marks for its excellent print quality and respectable speed. Our testers rated the Lexmark a close second to the DeskJet in the color image test. The Lexmark's newsletter and document pages were equally impressive.

Usually, the higher the resolution, the slower the print speed. But the 1200-dpi Lexmark sprinted through our speed tests. In our



Good Bargain: The Epson Stylus Color 600 doesn't match the speed or print quality of the DeskJet or Lexmark, but its low price is appealing.

Stylus Color 600 / Epson America / (800) 463-7766 / \$269 est. street price

newsletter test, it tied for first place with the 600-dpi NEC SuperScript by printing our 2-page document in 11.5 minutes. And it printed a color JPEG image in only 3.5 minutes—just 20 seconds slower than the DeskJet. Overall, the Lexmark is an excellent printer.

High Res On paper, the Epson Stylus Color 600 seems hard to beat. It offers amazing resolution—1,440 by 720 dpi—at a great price (\$269). But despite its impressive



Power Printer: The Lexmark 7200 has great print quality and excellent speed.

7200 Color Jetprinter / Lexmark Int'l / (800) 539-6275 / \$399 est. street price / Enter 908 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink



Low-Price Leader: The NEC SuperScript 750C is a fast ink jet with a tantalizingly low price, but its print quality is poor.

SuperScript 750C / NEC / (800) 632-4636 / \$179 est. street price / Enter 909 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

specs, its color output didn't match that of the DeskJet or the Lexmark. The Stylus Color 600's shortcomings were particularly noticeable in the color image test: Its normal (360-dpi) and high-res (1,440 by 720) printouts lacked the clarity and sharpness of the DeskJet's and the Lexmark's. On the plus side, the Epson's

print quality was top-notch in our newsletter and font page tests. In these tests, our testers rated the Epson's high-res output equal to that of the DeskJet, the Lexmark, and the Canon printers. The Stylus Color's print speed is respectable for an ink jet. At 1,440 by 720 dpi, the Epson printed our 2-page newsletter in 15 minutes—3.5 minutes slower than the Lexmark and

No Bargain No doubt about it—the NEC

SuperScript 750C sounds like a bargain. Its 600-dpi resolution and bargain-basement \$179 price makes it the low-price leader of this roundup. So why aren't we recommending it? Disappointing print quality. The SuperScript came in last in our color-image test, creating blurry, dark images with colors that bled. And in our newsletter test, the SuperScript's text output was equally underwhelming, with jagged fonts and poor color reproduction (text that was blue onscreen was purple on the printed page).

The good news? The SuperScript was one of the fastest printers we tested. It churned out our 2-page newsletter in 11.5 minutes, tying the Lexmark for first place.

But while the SuperScript is a good choice for bargain hounds seeking a low-cost color ink jet, SOHO users with serious printing needs should look elsewhere.



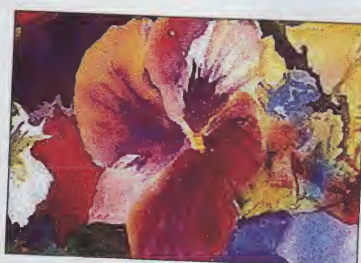
Slow but Steady: The BJC-4304 is slow, but it's inexpensive and produces good text and graphics.

BJC-4304 Photo / Canon Computer / (800) 848-4123 / \$239 est. street price / Enter 910 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

SIDE BY SIDE

INK-JET OUTPUT COMPARISON

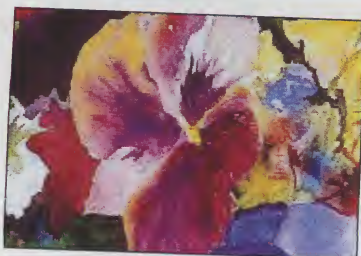
Today's ink-jet printers may not be perfect, but most of them provide crisp color output at a low price. If speed isn't a priority, a color ink jet may be what you need to turn out great-looking color documents. Compare the image samples of our roundup's five printers.



Hewlett-Packard DeskJet: The DeskJet 722C has the best print quality of the bunch, even when compared with higher-res printers.



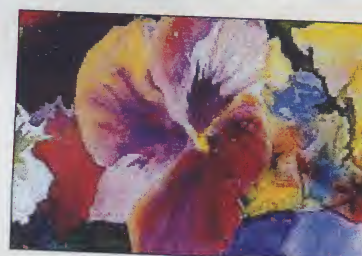
Lexmark 7200 Color Jetprinter: The Jetprinter's output is impressive, rivaling that of the Hewlett-Packard DeskJet.



Epson Stylus Color 600: The Stylus Color's color output lacks clarity and sharpness, even at 1,440 by 720 dpi.



NEC SuperScript 750C: The SuperScript's price is seductive, but its image quality is dark and murky.



Canon BJC-4304 Photo: Canon's BJC-4304 produces bright images—but you can expect a long wait.



Printers at a Glance

	Canon BJC-4304 Photo	Epson Stylus Color 600	Hewlett-Packard DeskJet 722C	Lexmark 7200 Color Jetprinter	NEC SuperScript 750C
Top Resolution (dpi)	720 by 360	1,440 by 720	600 by 600	1,200 by 1,200	600 by 600
Pages per Minute (manufacturers' estimates)	5 ppm black, 2 ppm color	6 ppm black, 4 ppm color	8 ppm black, 4 ppm color	8 ppm black, 3 ppm color	6 ppm black, 2 ppm color
Dimensions (inches)	15.1 by 11.5 by 7.5	16.9 by 9.1 by 6.1	17.5 by 14 by 7.3	17 by 10.5 by 12	18.1 by 18.3 by 9.3

Snail's Pace The Canon BJC-4304 Photo has a lot going for it. It's the smallest printer we tested, it costs a mere \$239, and it supports an optional \$99 scanner cartridge that's great for digitizing photos, documents, and artwork. And the Canon's print output—particularly text and graphics—at the highest resolution (720 by 360 dpi) is good.

Unfortunately, the Canon is painfully slow. In high-res

mode, it took three times as long as the DeskJet to print our 2-page fonts document. In our newsletter test, it was five minutes slower than the speedy Lexmark and NEC printers. Although the Canon BJC-4304 is relatively inexpensive and produces quality output, most users won't want to wait for its poky performance.

Good Deals All in all, the latest batch of color ink

jet printers have unprecedented print quality. The \$349 Hewlett-Packard DeskJet 722C delivers the best combination of color, sharpness, and speed. The \$399 Lexmark 7200 Color Jetprinter is a close second behind the HP DeskJet. Finally, budget-minded users should consider the \$269 Epson Stylus Color 600, a worthy ink jet that offers solid color printing.

JEFF BERTOLUCCI

Lab notes

Our testers installed each color ink jet on a 200MHz MMX Pentium PC, noting if the printer included an easy-to-follow setup guide. Testers then conducted a series of three tests to judge the printers' speed and print quality. Each printer was tested at high resolution and at normal resolution, which ranged from 360 by 360 dpi to 600 by 300 dpi.

In our color image test, we printed a JPEG image of a floral painting by artist Connie Tunick (www.iswest.net/~atun). Testers studied each printout, noting how accurately its colors and shading matched the onscreen image.

Testers then printed a 2-page newsletter—complete with columns, illustrations, shaded boxes, and multiple fonts, point sizes, and text colors—to see if the fonts and graphics were crisp and the colors accurate. Finally, testers printed a 2-page, single-spaced Microsoft Word document that contained a minimum of 5 fonts and 3 text colors per page.

Testers also timed the printers during each test. The final step was to determine if each printer's software bundle was truly useful to SOHO users or designed more for a consumer audience.

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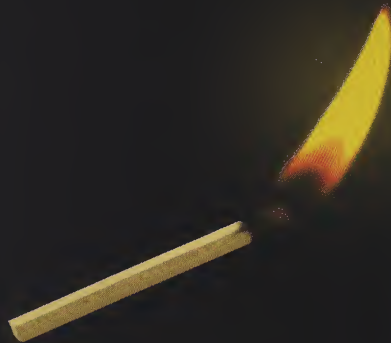
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Desired Beneficiary Plan — Employee Choice If Select Provider Plan is an option:
☒ Select Provider Plan ☐ Other Beneficiary Plan offered by employer
If your employer has chosen both the Select Provider Plan and another benefit plan to offer employees, you may choose between the two plans. See your employer for details of the benefit plans.

Beneficiary — Name, Age, Address & Relationship of this beneficiary has been selected:
Name: LARRY P. JONES
Age: 42
Address: 1735 WILSHIRE LANE, CITY SPRING VALLEY, CA 92705
Relationship: Spouse

INFORMATION ABOUT THE EMPLOYEE

EMPLOYEE'S NAME: LARRY P. JONES
DATE OF BIRTH: 12-16-64
BIRTHPLACE: CA
HEIGHT: 4'11" 1/2
WEIGHT: 170
SOC. SEC. #: 342-12-3456
HOME ADDRESS: 1735 WILSHIRE LANE, CITY SPRING VALLEY, CA 92705
HOME PHONE #: (619) 782-1289
DATE OF FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT: 04-01-97
OCCUPATION: ACCOUNTANT
SALARY: \$4200.00
MARRIAGE STATUS: ☒ Married ☐ Single ☐ Widowed ☐ Divorced

PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIAN

Name of Primary Care Physician: FRANK G. BROWN
Address: 123 E. MAIN ST., OGDEN, UT 84201
Phone: 801-234-5678
Fax: 801-234-5679

INFORMATION ABOUT THE EMPLOYEE'S DEPENDENTS

NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	HEIGHT	WEIGHT	SOC. SEC. #	RELATIONSHIP
JAMES K. SMITH	08-15-90	4'10"	120	PR 3456	Child
FRANK G. BROWN	03-12-91	4'8"	110	AS 7890	Child
FRANK G. BROWN	05-15-92	4'5"	90	AS 7890	Child

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INFORMATION ABOUT THE EMPLOYEE

EMPLOYEE'S NAME: LARRY P. JONES
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Address: 123 E. MAIN ST., OGDEN, UT 84201
Phone: 801-234-5678
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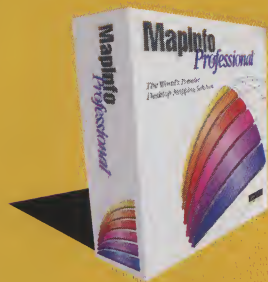
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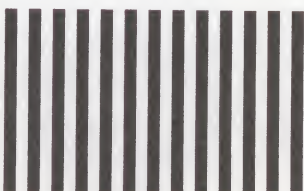
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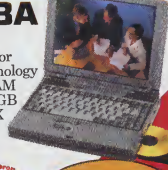


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EtherLink III combo ISA	119.36
3C589-TP EtherLink III LAN PC Card 10BT	129.68
3C562D-TP EtherLink III 33.6 PC Card 10BT	259.25
3C905-TX Fast EtherLink XL 10/100 PCI	88.46
3C900-TPO EtherLink XL 10BT PCI	109.32
3C900-COMBO EtherLink XL PCI combo	129.44
Courier 56K modem x2 internal	229.45
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Impact IQ ISDN modem external	199.24
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SuperStack II Hub 12-port 10BT	499.49
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ARCserve V6.5 for Windows NT workstation edition	82.75
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EtherFast 10/100 LAN PC Card	115.58
EtherFast 2-port 10/100 switch	239.39
StackPro 100 8-port 100BTX hub	449.00
StackPro 100 10-port 100BTX hub	509.16

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EN108 8-port 10BT slimline Ethernet hub	77.27
FE104 4-port 100BT Fast Ethernet hub	124.61
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EtherEZ 5T 10BT hub	49.86
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EtherPower II 10/100 PCI	67.13
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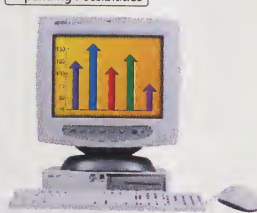
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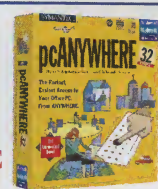


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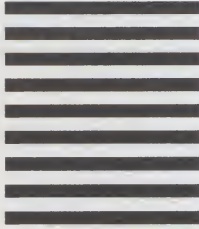


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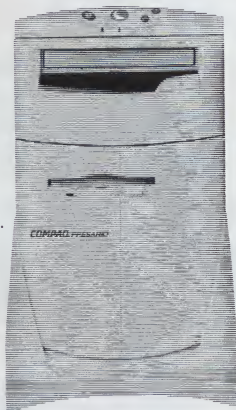
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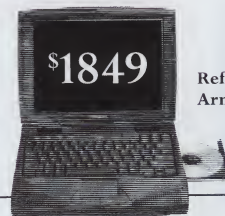
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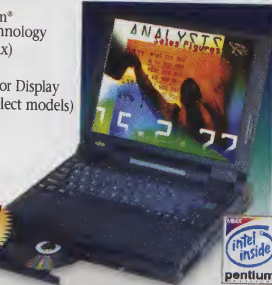
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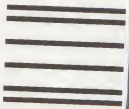
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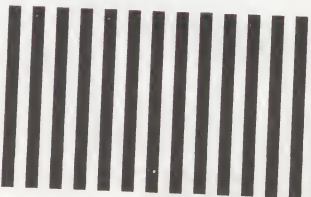
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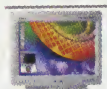
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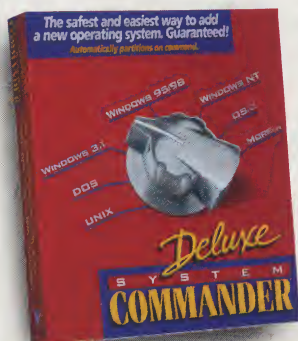
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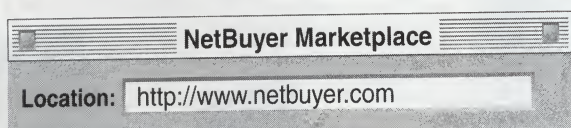
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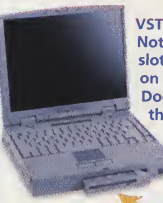
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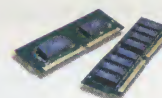
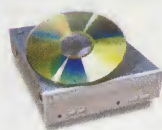
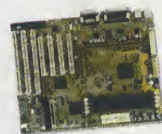
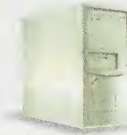
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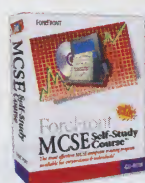
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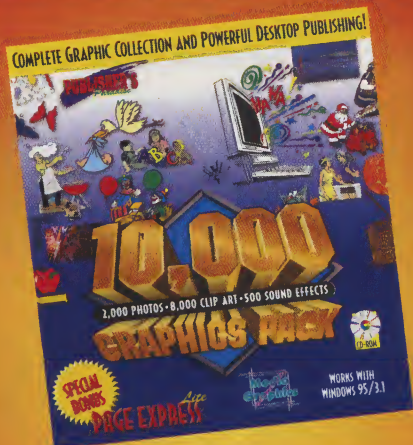
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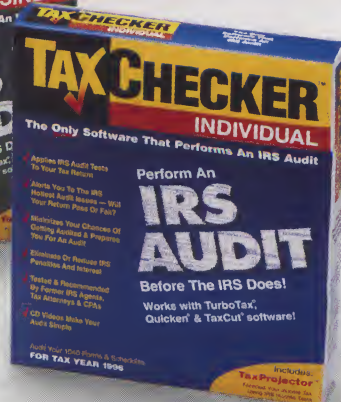
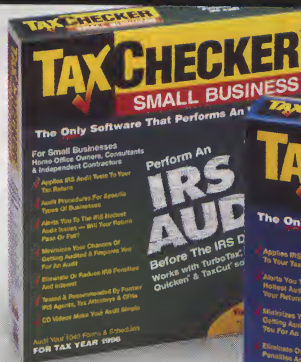
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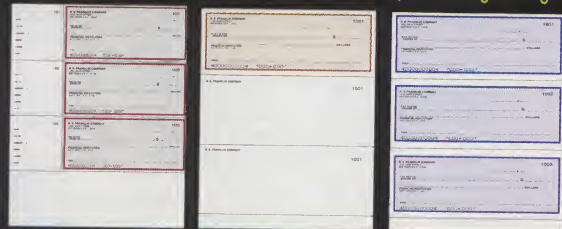
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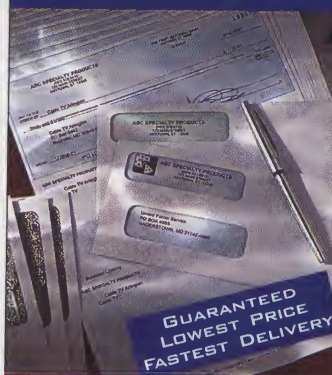
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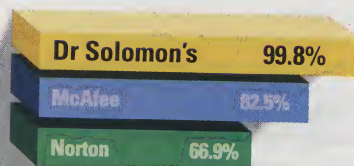
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MACRO VIRUS DETECTION RATE



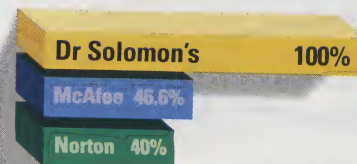
SOURCE — Secure Computing, January 1997

BOOT-SECTOR VIRUSES



SOURCE — University of Hamburg, February 1997

DETECTION OF VIRUSES IN COMPRESSED AND ARCHIVED FILES



SOURCE — Secure Computing, January 1997

DIGITAL COPYRIGHT

Web Watermarks

A million-dollar design team worked feverishly to make your corporate Web site a must-see destination, packed with photographs, illustrations, animations—the works. Critics raved. Competitors cringed. But shortly after your creative investment went live, copyright pirates stole it all, quickly and easily.

The Web makes publishing creative content to a mass audience simple; unfortunately, stealing content and skirting copyright laws is just as easy. But thanks to a new breed of digital copyright protection tools, you can fight back. Take, for example, Digimarc's PictureMarc 1.51 software (www.digimarc.com).

Much like a watermark on high-quality letterhead, PictureMarc's digital watermarking communicates copyright information about an image. Copyright pirates can't remove or mask a PictureMarc, which is digitally woven into the image and masked from view. Content producers register with Digimarc for unique watermarking ID keys (\$99 for annual registration), which record your company name, information about the

image, and how interested parties can contact you for reprint permission—a smart marketing tool for selling your work. Plus Digimarc maintains a MarcSpider, which scours the Web for your watermarked work and notifies you of any duplicates.

Digimarc is useful for protecting images, but what about the rest of your site? Unfortunately, your options for protecting text documents are limited. Aliroo (www.aliroo.com) offers several encryption-based security tools, including PrivaSuite for protecting documents and ScarLet for protecting images and sound files. But while encryption can help stop a thief, it can be a time-consuming frustration for your legitimate audience. Another option is Adobe Acrobat (www.adobe.com), which encapsulates a published work, but not without hassles as it requires a separate viewer.

Your best defense against copyright violators is a strong offense. Embed unique meta tags—descriptive, hidden keywords



The One and Only Mona: A new breed of digital copyright tools protects your online content from pirates.

that summarize a Web page—into your site. Then perform site name searches with engines such as AltaVista (www.altavista.digital.com) or Excite (www.excite.com), and keep an eye out for hijacked pages. In the meantime, stay tuned for copyright legislation. Just don't hold your breath.



1,001 Top Free Downloads: March Update

Visit www.pccomputing.com for links to all of *PC Computing's* 1,001 downloads.

Name	Filename/Size/Time*	The Buzz
BJ Webvertising WebSpinner 3.8	SPDR-ED.EXE/2.2MB/13 minutes	Popularize your Web site with this site-promotion tool.
Claudin Lambert PeerChat 1.3	PCHAT131.ZIP/1MB/6 minutes	Find friends to chitchat with online using this handy chat utility.
Jason K. Quick Timer 1.0	QTIMER.ZIP/283K/2 minutes	Keep track of your remote access time and costs with this log.
Mixman Studio 1.3	STUDEM13.EXE/5.5MB/32 minutes	Create and play CD-quality music on your own desktop.
Patterson Design Systems TweakDUN 1.2	TD_12.EXE/210K/2 minutes	Tweak Windows 95's Registry to make dial-up networking work the way you want it to.
Silicon Prairie Software ClipTrakker 1.0	CLIPTRAK.EXE/1,208K/7 minutes	Love to cut and paste in Windows? Then you'll dig this cool Clipboard enhancement tool.
Silver State Software Pocket Bill	POCKETBILL.EXE/278K/2 minutes	Keep track of your expenses with this Windows CE 2.0 utility.

*ESTIMATED DOWNLOAD TIMES ARE CITED AT 28.8KBPS; ACTUAL TIMES VARY.

Ultimate Toolkits

BY RICH SCHWERIN

Carpenters have their favorite hammers. Chefs have their prized knives. And Internet developers? We've gathered some of the most powerful weapons to add to your Web arsenal, from database middleware and visual scripting environments to hard-core Java tools and site management kits. See something you like? Find it and much more at www.pccomputing.com/infolink.

MORTAR
The Professional Web Toolkit

Big Picture Multimedia Mortar:
Build cutting-edge Web sites on a budget with support for XML, Java, and Cascading Style Sheets.

EQUILIBRIUM
The Art of Automation

DeBabelizer Pro:
Don't wrestle with graphics for the Web without this multitasking wonder, which supports more than 100 file formats.

AtWeb Web Site Garage: Find out how well-tuned your Web site is with this free five-point diagnostic service.

PRODUCT

Verdict

Big Picture Multimedia Mortar 2.0

\$259 est. street price
(888) 424-4742
InfoLink No. 921

★★★★★ Keep your Web site a step ahead of the competition with Big Picture Multimedia's Mortar 2.0. With support for emerging Web technologies such as XML, Java, Cascading Style Sheets, and other extras, Mortar is a developer's dream come true.

Equilibrium DeBabelizer Pro 4.5

\$399 est. street price
(800) 524-8651
InfoLink No. 922

★★★★★ If you work with graphics, animation, or digital video on the Web, you need DeBabelizer Pro 4.5. Nothing else matches DeBabelizer's support for more than 100 image file formats, and hands down, there's no better way to optimize your graphics for the Web.

EveryWare Tango Enterprise 3.0

\$5,695 est. street price
(888) 819-2500
InfoLink No. 923

★★★★★ Think hooking your ODBC database to the Web is a tricky dance step? Let Tango Enterprise 3.0 take the lead. Its two parts—the Tango Development Studio and the Tango Application Server—make for painless database-driven development.

Microsoft Visual Studio 97

\$999 est. street price
(800) 426-9400
InfoLink No. 924

★★★★★ Don't buy tools piece by piece—get visual and get 'em all in an integrated suite at a bargain price. Visual Studio 97 includes Visual Basic 5.0, Visual C++ 5.0, Visual J++ 1.1, Visual InterDev 1.0, Visual FoxPro 5.0, and the Microsoft Developers Network Library. Whew!

Nombas ScriptEase Web Server Edition 4.0

\$129 est. street price; (888) 766-6227
InfoLink No. 925

★★★★★ CGI jockeys: Stop wasting time and get Nombas's ScriptEase Web Server Edition 4.0. ScriptEase includes an IDE debugger and combines all CGI interfaces (including ISAPI) into a common interface—a great way to build forms into your Web site.

WebManage NetIntellect 3.0

\$199 est. street price
(603) 594-9226
InfoLink No. 926

★★★★★ Want to know what's really going on with site traffic? Stop analyzing raw Web-server data and get NetIntellect 3.0. Besides log-file analysis, NetIntellect generates reports that reveal traffic statistics essential to marketing your site successfully.

AtWeb Web Site Garage

Free tune-up; pricing varies
www.websitgarage.com
InfoLink No. 927

★★★★ How healthy is your Web site? Find out with a free tune-up from AtWeb's Web Site Garage. Just plug in your site's URL and let the Garage evaluate your site via a five-point checkup: load time, dead links, popularity, spell-checking, and HTML design checking.

BulletProof JDesignerPro 2.3

\$695 est. street price
(800) 505-0105
InfoLink No. 928

★★★★ You don't need a flak jacket to build database-driven Web sites, but you do need BulletProof's JDesignerPro 2.3. Boasting a visual design and coding environment, JDesignerPro includes built-in access control, remote deployment, and JavaBean support.

InstallShield Software InstallFromTheWeb 2.1

\$395 est. street price
(800) 374-4353
InfoLink No. 929

★★★★ The Web is a great way to deliver your software, but only if you use the right packaging. InstallShield's InstallFromTheWeb is a good way to jump on the electronic software distribution bandwagon to increase your revenue. And it ensures trouble-free downloads and installations for your customers.

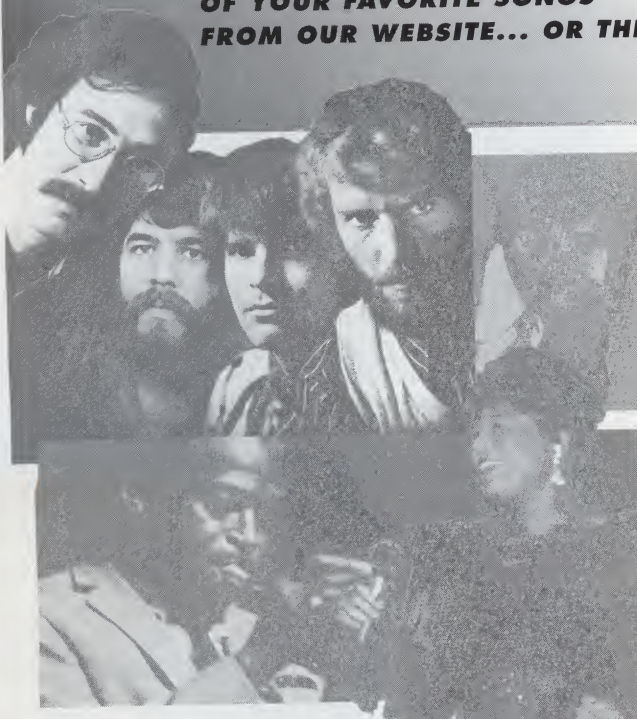
★★★★ Excellent ★★★★★ Good ★★★★★ Acceptable ★★★★★ Poor ★★★★★ Unacceptable

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- Who'll Stop the Rain006
- Born on the Bayou007
- Fortunate Son008
- Travelin' Man009
- Lookin' Out My Back Door010
- Have You Ever Seen the Rain011
- Sweet Hitch-Hiker012
- Heard It Through the Grapevine013
- Midnight Special014
- Good Golly Miss Molly015

Jazz Legends

- Miles Davis: My Funny Valentine016
- Chet Baker: How High the Moon017
- Sarah Vaughan: Lush Life018
- Stan Getz: I've Got You Under My Skin019
- Wes Montgomery: Round Midnight020
- Gene Ammons: Till There Was You021
- Dizzy Gillespie: Pensativo022
- Ella Fitzgerald: Fine And Mellow023
- Andre Previn: Let's Fall In Love024
- Charles Mingus: A Foggy Day025
- Vince Guaraldi: Charlie Brown Theme026
- Oscar Peterson: Satin Doll027
- MJQ: I'll Remember April028
- Milt Jackson: The Nearness of You029
- Thelonious Monk: Blue Monk030
- John Coltrane: Lush Life031
- Les Brown: Misty032
- Bill Evans: Waltz for Debby033

- Duke Ellington: Sophisticated Lady034
- Ron Carter: Stella By Starlight 035035
- Art Blakey: Caravan036
- Louis Armstrong: Mack the Knife037
- Sonny Rollins: Way Out West038
- Flora Purim: Light as a Feather039
- Joe Pass: All The Things You Are040
- Lester Young: Lester Leaps In041
- Cannonball Adderley: Autumn Leaves042
- Clifford Brown: The Song Is You043
- Miles Davis: Round Midnight044
- Charlie Byrd: Desafinado045
- Dave Brubeck: 'S Wonderful046
- Art Tatum: Embraceable You047

Rock, Blues & More

- Little Richard: Long Tall Sally048
- Jerry Garcia: Positively 4th Street049
- Eddie Floyd: Knock On Wood050
- Albert King: Sky Is Crying051
- Otis Redding: Dock of the Bay052
- Ray Charles: Georgia on my Mind053
- Joe Turner: Corinne, Corinna054
- Otis Spann: Dust My Broom055
- Victoria Spivey: Let's Ride Tonight056
- Mose Allison: 7th Son057
- Steve Cropper: In The Midnight Hour058
- Booker T & the MG's: Something059
- Sam Cooke: Happy In Love060
- Ramblin' Jack Elliott: Tom Joad061
- John Lee Hooker: Boogie062
- Chillun Fred McDowell: Milk Cow Blues063
- Isaac Hayes: Never Can Say Goodbye064
- Lightnin' Hopkins: Mojo Hand065
- Memphis Slim: Rock Me Baby066
- Leo Kottke: Driving of the Year Nail067
- Tony Bennett: My Foolish Heart068

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250 Exchange Place, Suite A, Hemdon, VA 20170

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Satisfaction Guaranteed.

If there are any material defects, return CD within 30 days for prompt replacement or refund.

D-002



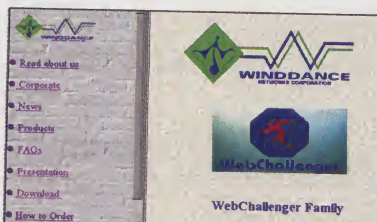
BulletProof JDesignerPro: Tie databases to the Web with style and ease thanks to this \$695 Java tool.



Marketwave Hit List Professional: Who's hitting your Web site? When? Why? Find out with this outstanding site-traffic tool.



NetObjects Fusion: Fuse together a spiffy site with this best-of-breed site designer, builder, and maintenance suite—all for just \$295.



WindDance Networks WebChallenger: Go beyond simple site upkeep and dig into load balancing, network management, and more.

PRODUCT

Verdict

Interactive Media ActionLine 1.6

\$199 est. street price
(650) 948-0745
InfoLink No. 930

★★★★ If you're on a budget but want to dabble in Java-based Web page creation, check out Interactive Media's ActionLine 1.6. For only \$199, ActionLine is a graphical way to construct animations, sounds, images, and applets—all in Java.

Marketwave Hit List Professional 3.5

\$995 est. street price
(800) 521-8176
InfoLink No. 931

★★★★ It doesn't make a difference if you're on the marketing team or the production crew; you need to know who's hitting your Web site, how often, when, where from, and why. Find out with Marketwave's Hit List Professional 3.5, a heavy-duty site-traffic and visitor-analysis package.

Microsoft Visual J++ 1.1

\$99 est. street price
(800) 426-9400
InfoLink No. 932

★★★★ Here's a better way to brew your next cup of joe—with Microsoft's Visual J++ 1.1. Visual J++ Professional Edition gives you a powerful debugger and compiler, plus smooth integration with other programming languages.

Netiva Software Netiva 2.0

Starts at \$299 est. street price for five clients
(888) 263-8482
InfoLink No. 933

★★★★ Do the disparate thin clients in your company need relational database access? Java-based Netiva 2.0 is the way to go. Netiva lets you create custom, database-driven intranet applications that anyone with a Java-enabled Web browser can access. Building such applications is easy with Netiva's drag-and-drop features.

NetObjects Fusion 2.0.2

\$295 est. street price
(888) 482-3200
InfoLink No. 934

★★★★ If you're still looking for a professional-grade Web site development tool, check out NetObjects Fusion 2.0.2. Fusion serves up powerful features to help you design, build, and maintain a world-class Web site. And if you're working with a group, TeamFusion can help.

TopSpeed Clarion 4 Internet Edition

\$749 est. street price
(800) 354-5444
InfoLink No. 935

★★★★ Just because you need to deploy 4GL applications over the intranet, extranet, and Internet, it doesn't mean you need to do the same work three different times. TopSpeed's Clarion 4 Internet Edition lives up to the promise of write once, run anywhere, with a standards-based software development kit.

NetFactory ChartBlaster 2.16

\$495 est. street price
(301) 625-5600
InfoLink No. 936

★★★★ Design beautiful charts and graphics in Java with NetFactory's \$495 ChartBlaster. ChartBlaster lets you create, edit, and save Java-juiced charts and graphs, then deploy them to the Net or other applications—without Java or HTML know-how. Check it out!

Persoft Persona

\$69 to \$1,095 est. street price
(888) 657-3776
InfoLink No. 937

★★★★ Don't throw out or write off your old legacy mainframes—migrate 'em with Persoft's Persona. It's a good tool for Web-to-host connectivity and includes support for TN 3270, TN 5250, and Telnet connections, with TCP/IP, SNA, and LAT-specific versions.

ShowBase Extra 2.0

\$1,499 est. street price
(819) 685-2273
InfoLink No. 938

★★★★ Put your database on the Web without an ounce of programming, courtesy of ShowBase's \$1,499 ShowBase Extra 2.0. ShowBase lets you easily index your data and include keyword, natural expression, and multiple index searches from a slick Web interface. And ShowBase supports six foreign languages.

Software Publishing Serif PagePlus 5.0

\$99 est. street price
(800) 489-6720
InfoLink No. 939

★★★★ Short on time, money, and know-how, but need to publish to the Web? Software Publishing's Serif PagePlus 5.0 is your answer, at just \$99. PagePlus 5.0 includes predesigned layouts and helpful advice to get you started. Plus, more than 300 design wizards walk you through the entire development process.

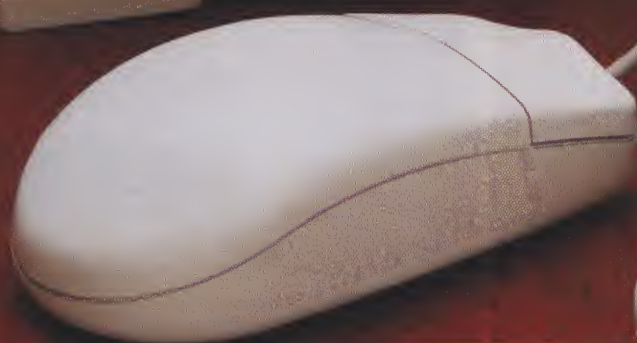
WindDance Networks WebChallenger

\$1,800 est. street price
(613) 728-1700
InfoLink No. 940

★★★★ Here's a novel concept for IT professionals: WindDance Networks has merged Web site management and network management into WebChallenger. Using Java and HTML, WebChallenger goes beyond site maintenance and offers load balancing, server and network performance analysis and diagnostics, site content verification, and other essential tools.

★★★★ Excellent ★★★★★ Good ★★★★★ Acceptable ★★ Poor ★ Unacceptable

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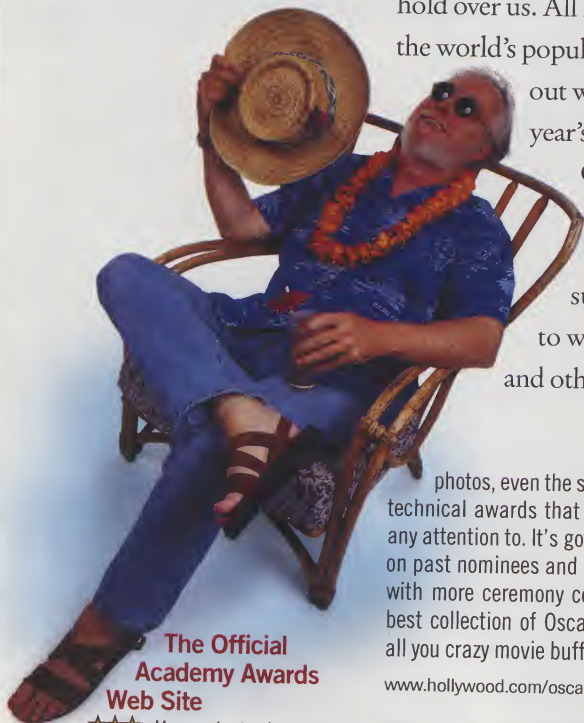
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Silver Screen

BY RON WHITE



The Official Academy Awards Web Site

★★★ Hey, what gives with the official Academy Awards site? You'd think an organization with as pretentious a name as The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences would blow all the locks off for its annual love fest's Web page. This has a lot of the official records of nominees and winners from past years, although its search engine doesn't come up with anything for certain years. But if you want to know the only movie to win an award for Unique and Artistic Picture, you can find it here.

www.oscar.com

Hollywood Online Salutes The Academy Awards

★★★★★ Now this is more like it. Hollywood Online is into the real spirit of the Oscars—juicy behind-the-scenes gossip, parties, fashion

Don't ask me what this strange attraction is that the Oscars hold over us. All I know is that later this month, most of the world's population will be glued to the TV set to find

out which one of five movies most of them never saw will be chosen as the year's best. Of course, it's never the one you think it should be. But that's life. Or reel life. The truth is that movies are a part of our bloodstream. We care about them passionately—more so than who gets elected president. So if you, too, lost it at the movies, here's a collection of superstar Web sites to fill in the 364 days that you don't have the Oscars to watch. Best of all, you won't have to buy a full-price ticket to enjoy these and other sites. So butter your popcorn and surf to www.pccomputing.com.

photos, even the scientific and technical awards that no one pays any attention to. It's got a lot of info on past nominees and winners, but with more ceremony color and the best collection of Oscar games for all you crazy movie buffs.

www.hollywood.com/oscars/

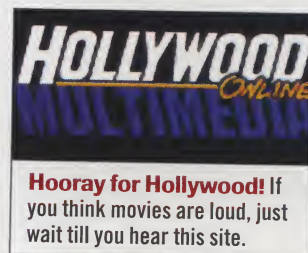
The James Bond Films Page

★★★★ You know, I can't help but feel that James Bond is getting a bit schizoid. If you too have trouble recalling everyone who's played 007 in the thirtysomething-year-old series of movies, check out this ultimate site devoted to Bond, James Bond. It's got everything from details about each movie—including product placements—to sounds and songs from the Bond flicks.

www.mcs.net/~klast/www/films.html

Hollywood Online Multimedia

★★★★★ If you're less concerned about the awards and more interested in just having a good time with movie bells and whistles, add Hollywood Online's Multimedia page to your bookmarks. The range of multimedia includes crews' and



stars' production notes; trailers and sound bites; games created with Shockwave and Vxtreme streaming video—the games look better the second time you run them—and a few QuickTime virtual reality scenes, which are totally disappointing. But where else can you download a WAV file of a screeching extraterrestrial bug?

www.hollywood.com/multimedia

The Remington Review

★★★★ If you want detailed information on just about anything showing anywhere, plus movies on video, check out The Remington Review. Written by Remington Dahl, the reviews are nowhere near as insightful as Siskel & Ebert's, but they include lots about the plot, some quotes from the films' makers, and

details that Siskel and Ebert leave out. There are ratings too, and Dahl is one with a nice turn of phrase, as when he compares the movie *Contact* to "inert pop-transcendentalist flatulence." Too bad there's no multimedia.

www.movie-reviews.com/

Siskel & Ebert

★★★★ If they don't syndicate Siskel & Ebert in your television market, demand that some local station carry it. Meanwhile, go to Siskel & Ebert's Web site for the latest bickerings of this movie-critic odd couple. The site's home page has a quick thumbs-up/thumbs-down tally for the past several weeks' films. For the current week there are Shockwave audio clips of the two tough guys from Chicago barely concealing their unvarnished animosity to the very sight and sound of each



Ratings: ★★★★★ *Citizen Kane*. ★★★★★ *Citizen Kould Be*. ★★★ *Citizen Klose but No Cigar*. ★★ *Citizen Kan't*. ★ *Citizen Krap*.

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The Ethel M. Internet catalog offers more than 60 unique chocolate creations, including their famous chocolate liqueurs.



From the middle of the Atlantic came an order from a woman whose appetite went beyond twenty-four-hour catering. Her cruise ship gave her everything she could possibly desire. Except her favorite chocolate liqueurs. Never one to be unsatisfied, she did a quick Internet search on the ship's computer and found Ethel M. Chocolates' online store. By the next port-of-call, she met her custom-ordered box. Unfortunately, she lost half the chocolates in a bribe to Customs.

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Infolink 273 at: www.pccomputing.com/infolink

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MODEM BLASTER

Flash56

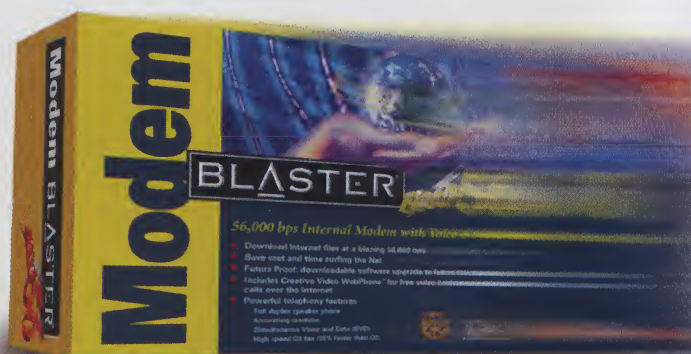
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For more information see your local dealer/distributor or visit the DSI web site.



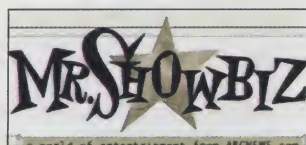
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other. During Ebert's review of *Alien Resurrection*, the audio moved to a scene from the movie, consisting entirely of slobbering, gnashing, and swallowing sounds. I thought Ebert had finally flipped and was consuming Siskel on the spot. There's no video, which is a shame.

www.tvplex.com/BuenaVista/SiskelAndEbert/index.html



Mr. Showbiz: Your Entertainment Weekly subscription isn't enough?

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★★★★★ If your obsession with Hollywood is fathomless, then you need to make Mr. Showbiz your home page. Whether you want some incisive reviews, cast and credits, gossip, or simply the Zodiac sign that Neve Campbell was born under—sun in Libra, moon in Capricorn—Mr. Showbiz is the best all-purpose site. It has gossip, headlines about a Mouseketeer being arrested, and other star stuff—supplied by ABC News—that puts the *National Enquirer* to shame. For an interactive touch, there are chat rooms and a place to enter your own ratings of movies. You can even find a review of the soundtrack to *Scream 2*, along with RealPlayer audio samples. Need the latest movie grosses? They're here. How about a contest for sexiest animated male character? You got it. Don't forget to check out the X-Files Haiku page, the Plastic Surgery Lab, and the Alien Sequelizer, where you fill in the blanks and get a perfectly plausible plot pitch for the fourth sequel to *Alien*.

www.mrshowbiz.com/

R-rated Spawn

★★★ Of course, if you're picking up the surreal comic-book flick

LITERARY LONGINGS

What are pages that you're actually expected to read doing on the multimedia-hot Web? Salon Magazine is a literate, *New Yorker*-style collection of articles



on topics ranging from John LeCarré to Mayan wanderlust to conventional lust with the ex.

www.salon1999.com

GET CULTURED

Thinking of joining a cult?

Go to the Cults 'R Us Hit List for groups of crazies sorted by the number of deaths associated with them.

www.mayhed.net/Crime/cults1.html



DOG'S BEST FRIEND

If you call your vet more than once a week, you need to know about Vetinfo—a site where you can ask all those nagging questions, search an encyclopedia of canine and feline health care, and find out what to do if you have problems with your vet.

www.vetinfo.com



WORDS OF WISDOM



I believe it was Plato who said, "Love is a grave mental disease." To see if I'm

wrong, I could look it up at

Pessimistic Quotes on Love, one of the many pages at Mojo World.

www.geocities.com/Athens/Acropolis/6993/love2.html

Spawn from Blockbuster Video, you're only getting the PG-13 version. To see all the stuff that was cut from the R version to make it acceptable for TV and Blockbuster, you've got to go to this site for its QuickTime collection of censored scenes. Frankly, I couldn't see what all the fuss was about. For that matter, in an image size smaller than my wrist-watch, I couldn't see much at all.

www.spawn-themovie.com/

The Shower Sequence Page

★★★ You've got to be a real aficionado to sit through the shower scene from *Psycho* as it unwinds from the Hitchcock Page. You could bury two people in the backyard in the time it takes. What's more, the image is ridiculously small. There's no sound. And it's not an AVI or even a GIF animation, just 103 HTML pages linked together. You can do some low-tech animation by clicking through the sequence. So why'd I



Norman's Mother: Hitchcock fans won't want to miss this psychotic collection.

download it? It's just the most memorable sequence of film ever edited, and you get a look at each of the, uh, cuts that make up the classic death scene. (Oh sorry, I didn't mean to give away the plot.)

www.primenet.com/~mwc/shower/psycho.html

Blockbuster New Releases

★★★ You mean you're actually going to turn off your computer and spend some time with the family? Before you do, you'd better check

out Blockbuster's new releases so you can find something to watch. Otherwise, you might find yourself having a conversation with the kids. The descriptions of new films on video are longer than those you'll get from the backs of the cassette cases. But strangely, Blockbuster doesn't seem to offer videos it doesn't recommend.

www.blockbuster.com/video/



Viacom's Empire: Want to make it a Blockbuster night? First see if they have anything.

PR200, P233 PCs: ~~FROM~~ \$499⁹⁹

AMD-K6 MMX, IBM 6x86MX, Pentium MMX. Easy-To-Assemble!

You can assemble a brand new multimedia 200 or 233 powerhouse and save up to \$300! Choose just the right processor for your kind of work from the best in the industry... a Pentium MMX... or the AMD-K6 MMX... or the IBM 6x86MX. These are complete kits, easily assembled for a full-featured multimedia system. Simply choose the hard disk size you need and a monitor for a ready-to-run system. Is it easy? YES! In fact, you need only a screwdriver and about an hour—it's easier to assemble than that barbecue on your patio! You'll actually enjoy assembling this computer—and learn about how it works in the process. Our state-of-the-art motherboard, high-speed SDRAM memory and floppy drive are all pre-installed and 100% tested. Plus, the kit includes a top-speed 24X CD-ROM drive or NEC 4-CD Changer, 56K BOCA Research faxmodem with voice, 16-bit 3D Stereo Sound, S3 ViRGE 3D video with 4MB of video memory,

premium Windows 95 keyboard, PS/2 mouse, stereo speakers, microphone, cables and more.

Tiger's top-of-the-line 233 and Pentium II models also include a Microsoft IntelliMouse that makes scrolling on the Internet faster and easier than ever. Plus, these powerhouses come with our finest AT or ATX motherboards (shown above), which support the newest EIDE Ultra DMA/33 hard disks. These new hard disks boost transfer rates twice the previous 16MB/second limit—up to 33MB per second! We highly recommend teaming up a new Ultra DMA/33 hard disk with these fantastic motherboards.

All you need to build your own multimedia system is this kit, hard disk, monitor and operating system of choice. Simply pop in the hard drive, adapters and CD-ROM! Then power up and enjoy the enormous savings—up to \$300!

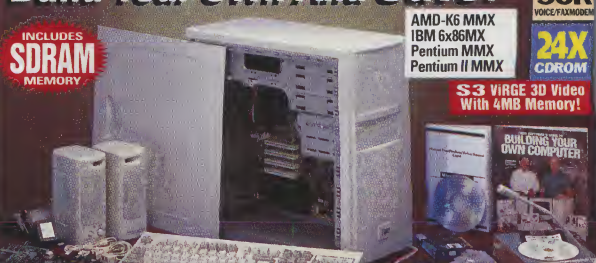
Tiger Assemble-It-Yourself Multimedia Kits

Item #	Processor	MB	HD Support	Mouse	Price
A13-KT 1	IBM 6x86 PR200+	AT	Ultra	PS/2 Mouse	\$499.99
A13-KT 5	IBM 6x86MX PR233	ATX	Ultra	IntelliMouse	\$679.99
A13-KT 6	AMD-K6 MMX 233MHz	ATX	Ultra	IntelliMouse	\$699.99
A13-KT 7	Pentium MMX 233MHz	ATX	Ultra	IntelliMouse	\$769.99
A13-KT 8	Pentium II MMX 266MHz	ATX	Ultra	IntelliMouse	\$1049.99
A13-KT 9	Pentium II MMX 300MHz	ATX	Ultra	IntelliMouse	\$1299.99

Add a Hard Drive. See below for specials.

Sorry, but as prices are always changing on CPUs, we do not offer price protection in the event prices rise or fall. Ask for details and warranty information. Configurations & prices subject to change; ask your sales rep for latest configurations & prices.

Build Your Own And Save!



YOU GET ALL THIS:

- Your Choice of Processor: IBM 6x86 or IBM 6x86MX or AMD-K6 MMX or Intel Pentium MMX
- 16 MB SDRAM Memory
- 24X CD-ROM (NEC 4-CD Changer on 6x86 PR200+)
- 56K BOCA Faxmodem
- 3D Sound with Speakers
- S3 ViRGE 3D Video With 4MB
- Premium Keyboard

- PS/2 or Microsoft IntelliMouse
- 512KB Pipelined Burst Cache
- USB Ports on ATX motherboard
- 4 PCI and 4 ISA Slots on ATX (5 PCI, 2 ISA and AGP slots on Pentium II)
- Infrared Port
- 3.5" Floppy Drive
- 2 Serial, 1 Parallel Port
- 9-Bay Case With 3" Cooling Fan
- Motherboard, RAM and Floppy Drive Pre-installed and Tested

ADD MEMORY Kit includes 1 16MB DRAM DIMM

Item #	Memory	Size	Price
A13-ME 1	SDRAM DIMM (1 module)	16 MB	\$44.99
A13-ME 2	SDRAM DIMM (1 module)	32 MB	\$79.99
A13-ME 3	SDRAM DIMM (1 module)	64 MB	\$199.99

ADD A HARD DRIVE...Featuring EIDE and Ultra DMA models 1.7GB to 6.4GB

Item #	Manufacturer	Capacity	Price	Item #	Manufacturer	Capacity	Price
A13-HD 1A	Seagate UDMA	1.7GB	\$149.99	A13-HD 3A	Western Digital UDMA	3.2GB	\$209.99
A13-HD 2B	Samsung UDMA	2.1GB	\$159.99	A13-HD 4A	Western Digital UDMA	4.3GB	\$239.99
A13-HD 3B	Seagate UDMA	3.2GB	\$199.99	A13-HD 6A	Western Digital UDMA	6.4GB	\$299.99

3.2 GB Ultra DMA HD Incredible Priced At Just \$169⁹⁹!

ITEM #	CAPACITY	INTERFACE	SEEK TIME	TRANSFER RATE	SPINDLE SPEED	BUFFER	BAY SIZE	WARRANTY	PRICE
J34-1000	3.2 GB	Ultra DMA	<12 msec	33 MB/S	5400 RPM	512KB	3.5"	3 years	\$169.99
J34-1002	4.3 GB	Ultra DMA	11 msec	33 MB/S	5400 RPM	512KB	3.5"	3 years	\$209.99

Western Digital Full Kit

ITEM #	CAPACITY	INTERFACE	SEEK TIME	PRICE
W10-1136	3.1 GB	EIDE Mode 4	<12 msec	\$199.99*
W10-1140	5.1 GB	Ultra DMA	<11 msec	\$269.99*
W10-1142	6.4 GB	Ultra DMA	<9.5 msec	\$299.99*

*Price after \$30 mail-in rebate. Effective 8/1/97 - 3/31/98.

Maxtor Full Kit

ITEM #	CAPACITY	INTERFACE	SEEK TIME	PRICE
M122-2005	4.3 GB	EIDE Mode 4	12 msec	\$249.99*
M122-2006	5.1 GB	EIDE Mode 4	10 msec	\$269.99*
M122-2010	8.4 GB	EIDE Mode 4	12 msec	\$419.99*

*Price after \$30 manufacturer's mail-in rebate.

EDO MEMORY SALE! PNY

16MB	\$29.99 LESS REBATE OF \$10*	JUST \$19.99 After Rebate!*
32MB	\$59.99 LESS REBATE OF \$20*	\$39.99 After Rebate!*

*Mail-in rebate valid through 4/15/98. Memory prices subject to change.

DVD Player And Internet PC: \$999⁹⁹

Amazing Audio And Video!

The future of entertainment is here. New PC Cinema includes a DVD player and powerful PC to boot! Compare: the VHS tapes you're watching now give you between 250 and 270 lines of resolution. PC Cinema's DVD player delivers an incredible 500 lines of resolution—that's double the detail and clarity! And unlike other DVD systems, PC Cinema is fully upgradable—so you'll be ready for possible future upgrades like DIVX, DTS or even writable DVD-ROM. Put your DVD—and your Internet PC—in the living room; after all, they belong together! PC Cinema is the complete family entertainment system at an affordable price! PC Cinema leads the way with the highest quality DVD technology. It's the crispest, sharpest, most lifelike image you've ever seen! Connects quickly and easily to your TV and enables you to surf the Net, watch movies, play games, work on your PC! Add more memory, add a printer, scanner, digital camera or digital video firewire connection, MIDI instruments and more. All with great video and sound!

Connects to your existing TV and Stereo!

Hollywood's blockbuster hits are now available in superior-quality DVD format!

A13-PC1	AMD K6-200 MMX PC Cinema	\$999.99
A13-PC2	AMD K6-233 MMX PC Cinema	\$1399.99

Sorry, but as prices are always changing, we do not offer price protection in the event prices rise or fall. Call for details and warranty information.

Complete IBM 6x86 PR200+ System \$999⁹⁹



On-Site Setup, Canon Color BubbleJet, NEC 4-CD Changer, KDS Monitor, Wave Table Sound, Internet-Ready, More! Outstanding Value! Premium Components!

Here's a complete high-performance computer system—complete with monitor and Canon color printer—set up in your home or office at such an incredibly low price! It's the world's easiest way to run one of today's hottest systems—Instantly surf the Internet, print photographic-quality color images, play 3D games and much more. This is a great deal—available separately for \$1128.95—but you can buy it here from just \$999. This machine is fast—powered by the IBM 6x86 PR200+ processor—rated by PC Magazine as the world's fastest processor! It seems only a few months ago this very machine was selling for over \$2,000. You can get this fully-loaded multimedia system with monitor and color printer—professionally set up at your home or office—from just \$999!

PROFESSIONALLY INSTALLED BY DOW JONES... Includes Canon Color Printer & KDS Monitor!

- IBM 6x86 PR200+ Processor
- S3 ViRGE DX 3D Video
- 16 MB EDO Memory
- 1.7 GB EIDE Hard Drive
- NEC Four-CD Changer
- Yamaha Wave Table 3D Audio with Stereo Speakers
- Premium Keyboard & Mouse
- BOCA 56K Flex Modem
- Windows 95 Pre-loaded
- More!

CUSTOM CONFIGURATIONS & ON-SITE SETUP

We'll custom-build a system to your exact specifications! Call for a complete list of options and prices!

Tiger Systems

Item #	Processor	Monitor	Printer	Price
A13-CS 1	IBM 6x86 PR200 14"	BJC-250		\$999.99
A13-CS 2	IBM 6x86 PR200 15"	BJC-4300		\$1,148.99

All systems include on-site installation and Internet setup with free Internet trial offer (requires credit card).

Visit www.tigerdirect.com For Details On All The Tiger Systems And Use Our On-line Configurator For Instant Quotes.

4x6 CD-Changers

Item #	Description	Price Each
H57-1024	4x6 CD Changer	\$74.99
H57-1026	4x6 CD Changer Multimedia Kit	\$124.99

BOOM! BOOM! ...OUT GO THE LIGHTS!

BLACKOUTBUSTER™

Protects Your Entire System With A Single UPS!

\$154⁹⁹

UNINTERRUPTIBLE POWER SOURCE

High Density 3.5" Floppy Disk Drive

Item #	Description	Price
H57-1014	3.5" Floppy T-7 Series	\$29.99

2x/6x CD Rewritable Drive

Item #	Description	Price
M200-1032	Includes 1 CD-RW Media	\$299.99

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Microsoft PRODUCTS

Call for prices.

Intel Pentium 233MMX With 13.3" Screen!

Tiger's Most Advanced Notebooks—Featuring Low-Voltage Intel Mobile Pentium MMX!

Amazingly Bright 13.3-Inch Active Matrix Display!

200MMX And 233MMX Models To Choose From!

Li-Ion Battery lasts up to 3 hours

ULTRA-POWER

\$2699⁹⁹

Pentium 200MMX, 32MB EDO RAM, 2GB Hard Drive, 20X CD-ROM

Item#	Processor	Memory	HD/CD	Display	Lease/mo.	Price
A13-NB 4A	Intel Pentium 200MMX	32MB EDO	2.0 GB/20X	13.3" Active Matrix	\$94*	\$2,699.99
A13-NB 5A	Intel Pentium 233MMX	32MB EDO	3.0 GB/20X	13.3" Active Matrix	\$105*	\$2,999.99

*Call for leasing. Sorry, but as prices are always changing, we do not offer price protection in the event prices rise or fall. Call for details and warranty information.

Tiger Notebooks; 200MMX or 6x86!

3 Affordable Models Available, Including IBM 6x86L PR166+ ...PLUS! Intel Pentium 200MMX!

Hot Color!

The 12.1" SGVA Dual Scan or Active Matrix display delivers crisp, brilliant 800 x 600 resolution.

Easily Connects With The World.

2 Type II or one Type III PCMCIA slots provide you with a world of communications options including faxmodem and Ethernet connections.

Pure Digital Sound

AMAZING!

\$1499⁹⁹

6x86L PR166+, 16MB EDO RAM, 1.4GB Hard Drive, 20X CD-ROM

Item#	Processor	RAM	HD	CD	System	Screen	Lease/mo.	Price
A13-NB 1A	IBM 6x86L PR166+	16MB EDO	1.4 GB	20X	Win95	12.1" DS	\$53*	\$1,499.99
A13-NB 2A	Intel Pentium 166MMX	16MB EDO	1.6 GB	20X	Win95	12.1" TFT	\$68*	\$1,939.99
A13-NB 3A	Intel Pentium 200MMX	32MB EDO	2.0 GB	20X	Win95	12.1" TFT	\$74*	\$2,099.99

*Call for leasing. Sorry, but as prices are always changing, we do not offer price protection in the event prices rise or fall. Call for details and warranty information.



233MHz COMPLETE SYSTEM

Complete Tiger Systems With Ultra DMA/33 Hard Disks, ATI AGP Video, Yamaha Wave Table Sound and More!

Tiger builds winning systems for hundreds less! We use top-quality components like ATI, BOCA, and Microsoft, and deliver state-of-the-art technology like Western Digital Ultra DMA/33 hard disks and AGP video—the fastest you can find. We back it up with a full one-year, on-site warranty that comes to you when needed, and we do it all for as little as \$1,000 less!

Five top-of-the-line MMX systems to choose from: the AMD-K6 233MHz, IBM's 6x86MX PR233, Intel's Pentium MMX 233MHz, or the incredible Pentium II 266 and 300 MHz power-masters. These complete systems are ready to run right out of the box—instantly surfing the Internet, enjoying the latest multimedia CD-ROMs and zipping through the most complex graphics applications. You get an incredibly rich multimedia experience with these MMX-enabled processors—up to twice the multimedia performance with MMX applications!

All of these complete systems include a huge 4.3GB or 6.4GB hard

NEW! ON-SITE SET-UP AND INSTALLATION AVAILABLE!

Avoid "Installation Anxiety!" Exclusive installation program from Dow Jones—a name you know and trust. Call for details!

\$99⁹⁹

DOW JONES

All Tiger MMX Systems Include...

- Boom Microphone
- Premium Win95 Keyboard
- Windows 95 Rel. 2 Pre-loaded
- Two 16550 Serial Ports
- PS/2 Mouse Port
- ECP/EPP Parallel Port
- Two USB Ports
- Infrared IrDA Connector
- 512K Pipelined Burst Cache
- 4 PCI/4 ISA Expansion Slots (Pentium II has 5 PCI/2 ISA & AGP)
- 9-Bay Mid-Tower Case (6-Bay on Pentium II)
- Triple-Fan Cooling System (Extra Fan in front of case)
- 200-Watt ATX Power Supply
- 3.5" 1.44MB Diskette Drive
- Dual Channel I/O Controller

drive, the fastest 32X CD-ROM drive, 32MB or 64MB of the fastest SDRAM memory, 16-bit SoundBlaster Pro-compatible sound with 3D effects and Yamaha wave table audio, BOCA 56K faxmodem with voice capability, ATI Rage II 3D video for hot graphics and heart-pounding 3D games, Yamaha digital stereo speakers and Microsoft IntelliMouse.

Tiger systems feature the most advanced 64-bit motherboards. Want the fastest hard disk transfer speeds? Then you must have the Ultra DMA-supporting chipsets on these motherboards. The new Western Digital Ultra DMA/33 bursts hard disk data at an astounding 33MB/second. Twice the speed of the previous 16MB/second model! And we teamed it up with the latest Ultra DMA/33 hard disk—amazingly fast and outrageously large! These motherboards also include 2 Universal Serial Bus ports for inexpensive future USB devices, and plenty of expansion slots for extra peripherals (4 PCI/4 ISA, except for Pentium II motherboards, which have 4 PCI/2 ISA/1 AGP). For memory, load up all you could ever want with the 4 SIMM and 2 DIMM memory slots (Pentium II motherboard has 3 DIMM slots).

AGP—Video Breakthrough Of The Decade! Tiger's Pentium II motherboard includes the latest video breakthrough—AGP (Accelerated Graphics Port). This new type of expansion slot makes AGP video run 10

Lightning-Fast! AMD K-6 Processor!

\$1049⁹⁹

LEASE IT! From Just **\$37⁹⁹** PER MONTH!

1 YEAR ON-SITE WARRANTY

Designed for Microsoft Windows 95

NSTL

Monitor not included. Add the pictured 15" KDS monitor (viewable 13.7") for just \$239. times faster than PCI! While a PCI adapter can transfer at a maximum of 33MB/second, this new AGP port from Intel can transfer up to 528MB/second! Plus, AGP video can use system memory for graphics—which becomes mandatory for games when 3D textures look their best only when they get 20MBs of video memory. With the included ATI 3D RAGE PRO 2X AGP-powered video adapter, this is the fastest video on Earth—perfect for the latest 3D games, recording live video, audio, and more!

IBM 6x86MX 233 System

- IBM 6x86MX PR233 MX CPU
- 32MB High-speed SDRAM
- 4.3 GB Ultra DMA/33 Hard Disk
- ATI Rage II 3D Video
- 4MB Video Memory
- 32X CD-ROM Drive
- BOCA 56K Voice/Faxmodem
- Yamaha 3D Wave Table Sound
- Yamaha Hi-Fidelity Speakers
- ATX Motherboard with Case
- Microsoft Intellimouse
- 1 Year On-Site Warranty

A13-S2 1 **\$1,049.99**
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AMD-K6 233 MMX System

- AMD-K6 233MHz MMX CPU
- 32MB High-speed SDRAM
- 4.3 GB Ultra DMA/33 Hard Disk
- ATI Rage II 3D Video
- 4MB Video Memory
- 32X CD-ROM Drive
- BOCA 56K Voice/Faxmodem
- Yamaha 3D Wave Table Sound
- Yamaha Hi-Fidelity Speakers
- ATX Motherboard with Case
- Microsoft Intellimouse
- 1 Year On-Site Warranty

A13-S2 2 **\$1,099.99**
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Pentium 233 MMX System

- Intel Pentium 233 MMX CPU
- 32MB High-speed SDRAM
- 4.3 GB Ultra DMA/33 Hard Disk
- ATI Rage II 3D Video
- 4MB Video Memory
- 32X CD-ROM Drive
- BOCA 56K Voice/Faxmodem
- Yamaha 3D Wave Table Sound
- Yamaha Hi-Fidelity Speakers
- ATX Motherboard with Case
- Microsoft Intellimouse
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Pentium II 266 MMX System

- Intel Pentium II 266 MMX CPU
- 32MB High-speed SDRAM
- 4.3 GB Ultra DMA/33 Hard Disk
- ATI 3D RAGE PRO AGP 2X Video
- 4MB Video Memory
- 32X CD-ROM Drive
- BOCA 56K Voice/Faxmodem
- Yamaha 3D Wave Table Sound
- Yamaha Hi-Fidelity Speakers
- Slot One Motherboard w/ Case
- Microsoft Intellimouse
- 1 Year On-Site Warranty

A13-S2 4 **\$1,439.99**
LEASE IT! Just \$41 per month!

Pentium II 300 MMX System

- Intel Pentium II 300 MMX CPU
- 64MB High-speed SDRAM
- 6.4 GB Ultra DMA/33 Hard Disk
- ATI 3D RAGE PRO AGP 2X Video
- 4MB Video Memory
- 32X CD-ROM Drive
- BOCA 56K Voice/Faxmodem
- Yamaha 3D Wave Table Sound
- Yamaha Hi-Fidelity Speakers
- Slot One Motherboard w/ Case
- Microsoft Intellimouse
- 1 Year On-Site Warranty

A13-S2 5 **\$1,799.99**
LEASE IT! Just \$63 per month!

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From **\$1599⁹⁹**

Choose from 133MMX or the amazing 166MMX!

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Intel 150 MHz Pentium Proc. with MMX

New!

Item #C170-1500

HP DESKJET 672C PRINTER!

JUST **\$199⁹⁹**

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- Print Speed Black: up to 4ppm; Color: up to 1.5ppm
- Print Resolution Black: 600x600 dpi
- Print Resolution Color: 300x300 dpi
- Fonts: 4 Built-In. Up to 100 pages for input tray.

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Liar, liar!

Are you really

that squeaky

clean?

We know

pirates are

everywhere.

Tell us the

truth at

PCCmail@zd.com

By Leslie Ayers

Enter next month's
I-Poll at www.pccomputing.com

Have you ever pirated software?

Everyone does it. No one will find out. We've heard all the excuses. And we suspect that at least a few of you fibbed on our poll. Only a third owned up to pirating software. But the guilty ones must be stealing apps like crazy: Software makers lost more than \$11 billion last year to piracy, according to the Business Software Alliance.

What did you pirate? Twenty-nine percent of you admitted pirating games, which barely edged out utilities and applications (25 percent each). But who's shocked? According to PC Data, games are also the top-selling software, with 39 percent of the market in 1997. You're ahead of the curve for utilities and apps, though, which combined under the umbrella of business software stole only 23 percent of the market.



Does your company know?

"No," you said—78 percent of you. No surprise there, but what about employers who turn a blind eye to the practice? Many of you told us that pirated software boosts company productivity, setting you up with the tools you need to telecommute or work overtime at home. But if your small business makes it an unspoken policy to share software without buying additional seat licenses just to save a few bucks, you're vulnerable to huge fines. With typical minimum penalties of \$100,000, being taken to court by—and losing to—groups like the Software Publishers Association and the BSA can be very pricey.



What will you do about it?

Admit it. You want to get even. The BSA ran an ad campaign to "Nail Your Boss." Anonymously. Or someone could even blow the whistle on you. Find out more at www.bsa.org.



35% That's how many of you fessed up to pirating software—wink, wink. The number seems suspiciously low, considering the multi-billion-dollar sucker punch software makers take each year.

SWEEPSTAKES!

Every two weeks, PC Computing Online gives away a piece of hardware you'll wonder how you ever lived without. This month's lineup features two MVP award winners.



SEANIX BABY GRAND - CS SYSTEM Register February 16 through March 2.



ATI ALL-IN-WONDER PRO GRAPHICS CARD Register February 2 through February 16.

The sweepstakes is open to U.S. residents over 18 years old who have access to the World Wide Web as of February 1, 1998. Entry form and complete sweepstakes rules are online at www.pccomputing.com.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY MARC ROSENTHAL AND ELIZABETH BRANDT

OUR INSPIRON NOTEBOOK HAS THE FASTEST MOBILE INTEL PROCESSOR ON EARTH.

(FOR ANYTHING FASTER, YOU'LL HAVE TO LOOK ELSEWHERE.)

NEW DELL® INSPIRON™ 3000 M266XT 266MHz PENTIUM® PROCESSOR WITH MMX™ TECHNOLOGY

- ★ 13.3" XGA Active Matrix Display
- ★ 32MB SDRAM Memory
- 512KB L2 Pipeline Burst Cache
- ★ 3.2GB ATA Hard Drive
- Modular Bay accepts 20X Max^{oo} Variable CD-ROM, 3.5" Floppy Drive (both included) or Optional 2nd Li-Ion Battery
- 128-bit Graphics Accelerator with 65K Colors at 1024x768
- Zoom Video and USB Ports
- ★ Stereo Speakers with 3D Surround Sound and Yamaha SW Wavetable
- Smart Lithium Ion Battery
- Cardbus Ready/Fast IR1.1
- ★ MS® Office 97 Small Business Edition
- MS Windows® 95 and Internet Explorer
- ★ 6.9 Pounds*/Touchpad
- Extendable 1 Year Limited Warranty†
- ★ Upgrade to 64MB SDRAM, add \$199.
- ★ Upgrade to a 4GB Hard Drive, add \$99.
- ★ 56K Capable** x2 Modem, add \$149.
- ★ Deluxe Nylon Carrying Case, add \$69.

\$2999

Business Lease*: \$109/Mo., 36 Mos.
Order Code #890207

THE DELL INSPIRON 3000 NOTEBOOK—NOW EQUIPPED WITH A 266MHz PENTIUM PROCESSOR WITH MMX TECHNOLOGY.



When work needs to leave the office, don't let your computer slow you down. Dell introduces the new Inspiron™ 3000 notebook with a 266MHz Pentium® processor with MMX™ technology. This notebook really knows how to fly. And it comes loaded with features such as a 13.3" XGA active matrix display. SDRAM, the fastest mainstream memory. And 3D Surround Sound. With the Dell®

Inspiron 3000 M266XT applications now run faster, which means you and your employees will, too. For more information, give us a call or stop by our website. Such high performance in a notebook may seem out of this world, but fortunately it's at a price that's very down to earth.



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SOFTWARE DESCRIPTIONS

Microsoft® Office 97 Small Business Edition (SBE) includes:

- Word 97
- Excel 97
- Publisher 97
- Outlook 97
- Small Business Financial Mgr. 97

Microsoft Home Essentials 98 includes:

- Word 97
- Encarta 98 Encyclopedia
- Money 98
- Works 4.5
- Greetings Workshop 2.0
- Puzzle Collection

DELL WORKSTATION

NEW DELL WORKSTATION 400 333MHz PENTIUM II PROCESSOR FEATURING MMX TECHNOLOGY

- 128MB ECC EDO Memory (512MB Max)
- 9.1GB Ultra-Wide SCSI-3 Hard Drive
- NEW 1600HS 21" Trinitron Monitor (19.8" v.i.s., .26dp)
- Matrox 8MB WRAM PCI Video Card
- 24X Max⁵ Variable SCSI CD-ROM
- Integrated 16-bit Sound Blaster Pro Compatible Audio Controller
- Integrated 3Com 3C905 Fast EtherLink XL 10/100 PCI Interface
- Remote Manageability via DMI 2.0
- MS Windows NT® Workstation 4.0
- Microsoft Mouse
- 3 Year Limited Warranty[†] with 1 Year On-site^a Service

\$4999

Business Lease^o: \$177/Mo., 36 Mos.
Order Code #990201

DELL POWEREDGE® SERVERS

Common features: ♦ 512KB Integrated L2 ECC Cache ♦ Integrated PCI Ultra-Wide SCSI-3 Controller ♦ Intel Pro/100B PCI Ethernet Adapter ♦ HP OpenView™ NNM Special Edition ♦ 24X Max⁵ Variable SCSI CD-ROM Drive

DELL POWEREDGE 2200 SERVER 300MHz PENTIUM II PROCESSOR DUAL PROCESSOR, RAID CAPABLE WORKGROUP SERVER

- Common features listed above plus:
- 128MB ECC EDO Memory
 - 9GB Ultra-Wide SCSI-3 Hard Drive
 - MS Windows NT Server 4.0 (10 Client Access Licenses)
 - 6 Expansion Slots: 3 PCI/3 EISA
 - 6 Drive Bays: 3 External 5.25"/3 Internal 3.5"
 - 3 Year Next-Business-Day On-site^a Service
 - 7x24 Dedicated Server Hardware Technical Telephone Support

\$4699

Business Lease^o: \$166/Mo., 36 Mos.
Order Code #250110

DELL POWEREDGE 2200 SERVER 266MHz PENTIUM II PROCESSOR DUAL PROCESSOR, RAID CAPABLE WORKGROUP SERVER

- Common features listed above plus:
- 64MB ECC EDO Memory
 - 4GB Ultra-Wide SCSI-3 Hard Drive
 - 6 Expansion Slots: 3 PCI/3 EISA
 - 6 Drive Bays: 3 External 5.25"/3 Internal 3.5"
 - 3 Year Next-Business-Day On-site^a Service
 - 7x24 Dedicated Server Hardware Technical Telephone Support
 - ★ 12/24GB Variable SCSI DAT Tape Backup Unit, add \$849.

\$2899

Business Lease^o: \$106/Mo., 36 Mos.
Order Code #250108

BEGINNING OF THE YEAR FOR A CHANGE.

DELL NOTEBOOKS – DELL INSPIRON™ 3000

Common features: ♦ 512KB L2 Pipeline Burst Cache ♦ Modular Options Bay accepts 20X Max^{oo} Variable CD-ROM, 3.5" Floppy Drive (both included) or Optional 2nd Smart Li-Ion Battery ♦ **Stereo Speakers with 3D Surround Sound and Yamaha Software Wavetable** ♦ Smart Lithium Ion Battery ♦ Zoom Video and USB Ports ♦ Cardbus Ready/Fast IR1.1 ♦ Touchpad ♦ MS Windows 95 ♦ MS Internet Explorer ♦ Extendable 1 Year Limited Warranty[†]

NEW DELL INSPIRON 3000 M266XT 266MHz PENTIUM PROCESSOR WITH MMX TECHNOLOGY

- Common features listed above plus:
- 13.3" XGA Active Matrix TFT Display
 - 144MB SDRAM Memory
 - 4GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive
 - 128-bit Graphics Accelerator with 65K Colors at 1024x768
 - Leather Carrying Case
 - MS Office 97 Small Business Edition
 - 6.9 Pounds*
 - ★ 56K Capable** x2 Modem, add \$149.
 - ★ 2nd Smart Li-Ion Battery, add \$169.
 - ★ 3Com 10/100 Fast Ethernet Adapter, add \$169.

\$3899

Business Lease^o: \$138/Mo., 36 Mos.
Order Code #890217

NEW DELL INSPIRON 3000 M266XT 266MHz PENTIUM PROCESSOR WITH MMX TECHNOLOGY

- Common features listed above plus:
- 13.3" XGA Active Matrix TFT Display
 - 32MB SDRAM Memory
 - 3.2GB ATA Hard Drive
 - 128-bit Graphics Accelerator with 65K Colors at 1024x768
 - MS Office 97 Small Business Edition
 - 6.9 Pounds*
 - ★ Upgrade to 80MB SDRAM, add \$299.
 - ★ Upgrade to a 4GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive, add \$99.
 - ★ 56K Capable** x2 Modem, add \$149.

\$2999

Business Lease^o: \$109/Mo., 36 Mos.
Order Code #890207

DELL INSPIRON 3000 M233XT 233MHz PENTIUM PROCESSOR WITH MMX TECHNOLOGY

- Common features listed above plus:
- 13.3" XGA Active Matrix TFT Display
 - 32MB SDRAM Memory
 - 2.1GB ATA Hard Drive
 - 128-bit Graphics Accelerator with 65K Colors at 1024x768
 - MS Office 97 Small Business Edition
 - 6.9 Pounds*
 - ★ Upgrade to a 266MHz Pentium Processor with MMX Technology, add \$100.
 - ★ Upgrade to 64MB SDRAM, add \$199.
 - ★ Leather Carrying Case, add \$99.

\$2799

Business Lease^o: \$102/Mo., 36 Mos.
Order Code #890209

DELL INSPIRON 3000 M200ST 200MHz PENTIUM PROCESSOR WITH MMX TECHNOLOGY

- Common features listed above plus:
- 12.1" SVGA Active Matrix TFT Display
 - 32MB SDRAM Memory
 - 2.1GB ATA Hard Drive
 - 128-bit Graphics Accelerator with 16 Million Colors at 800x600
 - MS Office 97 Small Business Edition
 - 6.4 Pounds*
 - ★ Upgrade to 48MB SDRAM, add \$99.
 - ★ Upgrade to a 4GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive, add \$199.
 - ★ Upgrade to MS Office 97 Professional, add \$215.

\$2399

Business Lease^o: \$87/Mo., 36 Mos.
Order Code #890211

sands of configurations available.



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DELL DIMENSION® DESKTOPS FOR BUSINESS

Common features: ♦ Mini-Tower Model ♦ 512KB Integrated L2 Cache ♦ 3.5" Floppy Disk Drive ♦ Dell® Quiet Key® Keyboard ♦ Two Universal Serial Bus (USB) Ports ♦ MS® Office 97 Small Business Edition plus Bookshelf 98 ♦ McAfee VirusScan ♦ MS Windows® 95 ♦ MS Internet Explorer 4.0 ♦ MS IntelliMouse® ♦ 3 Year Limited Warranty† with 1 Year On-site[^] Service **Upgrades:** ♦ HP® DeskJet® 722C, add \$299 ♦ HP OfficeJet® 600, add \$499

NEW DELL DIMENSION® XPS D333 333MHz PENTIUM® II PROCESSOR FEATURING MMX™ TECHNOLOGY

Common features listed above plus:

- 128MB SDRAM Memory
- NEW 9.1GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive (9.5ms)
- 1200HS 19" Monitor (17.9" v.i.s.)
- NEW Diamond Permedia 2 8MB AGP Video Card
- 32X Max^{^^} Variable CD-ROM Drive
- Sound Blaster AWE64 Value Sound Card
- ACS-295 Speakers with Subwoofer
- Iomega® Zip™ 100MB Internal Drive
- 3Com® 3C905 Fast EtherLink™ XL 10/100 PCI Card

\$3149

Business Lease[°]: \$111/Mo., 36 Mos.
Order Code #590201

DELL DIMENSION XPS D300 300MHz PENTIUM II PROCESSOR FEATURING MMX TECHNOLOGY

Common features listed above plus:

- 64MB SDRAM Memory
- 8.4GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive (9.5ms)
- 1200HS 19" Monitor (17.9" v.i.s.)
- STB nVidia 4MB AGP Video Card
- DVD-ROM Drive and Decoder Card
- Sound Blaster AWE64 Value Sound Card
- Altec Lansing ACS-90 Speakers
- 56K Capable** U.S.R. x2 WinModem
- ★ Upgrade to 128MB SDRAM, add \$199.
- ★ Upgrade to an Iomega Zip 100MB Internal Drive, add \$79.

\$2799

Business Lease[°]: \$102/Mo., 36 Mos.
Order Code #590202

DELL DIMENSION XPS D266 266MHz PENTIUM II PROCESSOR FEATURING MMX TECHNOLOGY

Common features listed above plus:

- 64MB SDRAM Memory
- 8.4GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive (9.5ms)
- 1000TX 17" Trinitron® Monitor (15.9" v.i.s., .26dp)
- STB nVidia 4MB AGP Video Card
- 32X Max^{^^} Variable CD-ROM Drive
- 3Com 3C905 Fast EtherLink XL 10/100 PCI Card
- Iomega Zip 100MB Internal Drive
- ★ Upgrade to a 1200HS 19" Monitor (17.9" v.i.s.), add \$175.

\$2299

Business Lease[°]: \$84/Mo., 36 Mos.
Order Code #590217

DELL DIMENSION XPS D233 233MHz PENTIUM II PROCESSOR FEATURING MMX TECHNOLOGY

Common features listed above plus:

- 32MB SDRAM Memory
- 4.3GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive (9.5ms)
- 800HS 15" Trinitron Monitor (14" v.i.s., .26dp)
- STB nVidia 4MB AGP Video Card
- 32X Max^{^^} Variable CD-ROM Drive
- 3Com 3C905 Fast EtherLink XL 10/100 PCI Card
- ★ Upgrade to 64MB SDRAM, add \$99.
- ★ Upgrade to an 8.4GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive (9.5ms), add \$99.

\$1799

Business Lease[°]: \$65/Mo., 36 Mos.
Order Code #590204

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DELL DIMENSION DESKTOPS FOR HOME

Common Features: ♦ Mini-Tower Model ♦ 512KB Integrated L2 Cache ♦ 56K Capable** U.S. Robotics x2 WinModem ♦ 3.5" Floppy Disk Drive ♦ Two USB Ports ♦ NEW MS Home Essentials 98 with Money 98 ♦ McAfee VirusScan ♦ MS Windows 95 ♦ MS Internet Explorer 4.0 ♦ MS IntelliMouse ♦ 3 Year Limited Warranty† with 1 Year On-site[^] Service **Upgrades:** ♦ Iomega Zip 100MB Internal Drive with One Cartridge, add \$79 ♦ HP DeskJet 722C Color Printer, add \$299

NEW DELL DIMENSION XPS D333 333MHz PENTIUM II PROCESSOR FEATURING MMX TECHNOLOGY

Common features listed above plus:

- 128MB SDRAM Memory
- NEW 9.1GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive (9.5ms)
- 1200HS 19" Monitor (17.9" v.i.s.)
- NEW Diamond 8MB AGP Video Card
- 32X Max^{^^} Variable CD-ROM Drive
- Sound Blaster AWE64 Value Sound Card
- Altec ACS-495 Full Dolby Surround Sound Speakers with Subwoofer
- Iomega Zip 100MB Internal Drive
- NEW Dell Comfort Key Keyboard

\$3249

Personal Lease[°]: \$157/Mo., 24 Mos.
Order Code #500204

DELL DIMENSION XPS D300 300MHz PENTIUM II PROCESSOR FEATURING MMX TECHNOLOGY

Common features listed above plus:

- 128MB SDRAM Memory
- 6.4GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive (9.5ms)
- 1000TX 17" Trinitron Monitor (15.9" v.i.s.)
- STB nVidia 4MB AGP Video Card
- DVD-ROM Drive and Decoder Card
- Sound Blaster AWE64 Value Sound Card
- ACS-295 Speakers with Subwoofer
- Iomega Zip 100MB Internal Drive
- Dell Quiet Key Keyboard
- ★ Upgrade to an 8.4GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive, add \$49.

\$2899

Personal Lease[°]: \$140/Mo., 24 Mos.
Order Code #500203

DELL DIMENSION XPS D266 266MHz PENTIUM II PROCESSOR FEATURING MMX TECHNOLOGY

Common features listed above plus:

- 64MB SDRAM Memory
- 6.4GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive (9.5ms)
- 1000TX 17" Trinitron Monitor (15.9" v.i.s.)
- STB nVidia 4MB AGP Video Card
- 32X Max^{^^} Variable CD-ROM Drive
- Integrated Yamaha Wavetable Sound
- ACS-295 Speakers with Subwoofer
- Iomega Zip 100MB Internal Drive
- Dell Quiet Key Keyboard
- ★ Upgrade to a 1200HS 19" Monitor (17.9" v.i.s.), add \$175.

\$2399

Personal Lease[°]: \$117/Mo., 24 Mos.
Order Code #500202

DELL DIMENSION XPS D233 233MHz PENTIUM II PROCESSOR FEATURING MMX TECHNOLOGY

Common features listed above plus:

- 32MB SDRAM Memory
- 4.3GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive (9.5ms)
- 1000LS 17" Monitor (15.9" v.i.s.)
- STB nVidia 4MB AGP Video Card
- 32X Max^{^^} Variable CD-ROM Drive
- Integrated Yamaha Wavetable Sound
- Altec Lansing ACS-90 Speakers
- Dell Quiet Key Keyboard
- ★ Upgrade to 64MB SDRAM, add \$99.
- ★ Upgrade to a 6.4GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive, add \$49.

\$1899

Personal Lease[°]: \$93/Mo., 24 Mos.
Order Code #500201

These are just a few of the thou



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NEW DELL DIMENSION® XPS D333 **333MHz PENTIUM® II PROCESSOR** **FEATURING MMX™ TECHNOLOGY**

- Mini-Tower Model
- ★ **64MB SDRAM Memory**
- 512KB Integrated L2 Cache
- ★ **6.4GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive (9.5ms)**
- ★ **1200HS 19" Monitor (17.9" v.i.s., .26dp)**
- ★ **NEW Diamond Permedia 2 8MB AGP Video Card**
- 32X Max™ Variable CD-ROM Drive
- Microsoft® Office 97 Small Business Edition Plus Bookshelf 98; McAfee VirusScan
- Microsoft Windows® 95 and Internet Explorer 4.0
- Dell® Quiet Key® Keyboard
- Microsoft IntelliMouse®
- 3 Year Limited Warranty¹ with 1 Year On-site² Service
- ★ **Upgrade to Integrated Yamaha Wavetable Sound and Altec Lansing ACS-90 Speakers, add \$89.**
- ★ **Upgrade to 128MB SDRAM Memory, add \$199.**
- ★ **Upgrade to a NEW 9.1GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive (9.5ms), add \$149.**

\$2499

Business Lease³: \$91/Mo., 36 Mos.
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THE NEW DELL DIMENSION XPS D333— FEATURING THE FASTEST PENTIUM II PROCESSOR AVAILABLE.

Prepare to go roaring into 1998 with more PC processing power than you've ever had before. The Dell Dimension® XPS D333 features the latest Pentium® II processor Intel makes, the 333MHz. The XPS D333 contains new components selected especially to harness the additional power. Like the new Diamond Permedia 2 8MB AGP Video Card, which takes advantage of the high-end Accelerated Graphics Port to render 3D and 2D video with amazing speed and clarity. A 19" high-resolution monitor (17.9" v.i.s.). And our optional 9.1GB Ultra ATA hard drive, ideal for storing and retrieving massive graphic and data files. So if your New Year's resolution was to work faster and smarter, then pick up the phone and give us a call. Or visit our website. And leave 1997 behind in a blur.



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